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12/04/23

PQ 15580/23: To ask the Minister for Health to indicate any outstanding Psycho-Oncology services posts at this moment in time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ15881/23: To ask the Minister for Health the amount of funding allocated to psycho-oncology services in 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology (Hospital and Community-based Psychosocial Care for Patients and their families) published in 2020, recommended the establishment and/or enhancement of Multi-Disciplinary (MDT) Psycho-Oncology Teams in the 8 cancer centres, St Lukes Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) and Childrens Health Ireland (CHI). The core Psycho-Oncology multi-disciplinary team for adults comprises psychiatry, psychology, social work and nursing. For paediatric services, the core Psycho-Oncology MDT comprises psychology, neuro-psychology, psychiatry, nursing, social work and play therapy.

Prior to the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026, a limited number of cancer centres had dedicated psycho-oncology provision in place. NCCP has undertaken a full review and allocated new MDT posts to enhance the functioning of teams in addition to forming new MDT Psycho-Oncology services across the cancer centres.

There are, circa 13 of the NCCP currently allocated posts in various stages of recruitment (from pre-advertisement to agreeing start-date) and these should be filled by end of Q4.

Subject to the annual National Service Planning process ongoing new development funding will be sought to continue investment in the psycho-oncology services for the lifetime of the current 2017-2026 National Strategy and into the next Strategy.

NCCP Psycho-Oncology Funding 2022, YTD 2023

The funding outlined below includes costs for the NCCP allocated psycho-oncology posts (annual) across the cancer centres, plus once off funding for Grants to Community Cancer Support Centres for survivorship services within communities.

Funding Year	Funding amount
2022	Circa €3,402,387
2023	Circa €3,408,122 (YTD)

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Cafferty
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

