



Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte  
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Deputy Peter Burke.  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

31st May 2023

**PQ Number: 20588/23**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if a national psychology placement office has been established; if funding models have been identified for psychology students at doctoral level; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Peter Burke**

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Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

This is a matter for the Mental Health Unit in the Department to respond to. However, I can advise that €750,000 has been provided in Budget 2023 to support counselling psychology training places. Minister Butler has confirmed that she is focussed on supporting counselling psychology students in an equitable way that delivers value for money. This funding will be used to support strategic workforce planning for the years ahead in order to ensure that the counselling needs of the health service are better met.

The structure of this funding is currently being finalised by officials in the Department of Health. The approach will be based on best practice and knowledge gained from other health and social care funded training models and will be guided by discussions with ourselves in the HSE.

I understand that an announcement will be made on the details of the funding allocation shortly, and in advance of the 2023-24 academic year.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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*Derck Chambers*

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**General Manager  
National Mental Health Services**