



Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair &  
Tuaisceart Chontae  
Baile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare  
Organisation  
Dublin North City &  
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath,  
Saoráid Cúram Sláinte Bhaile Munna,  
Bhaile Munna, Baile Átha Cliath 9, DO9 C8P5.

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Mr Denis Naughten TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Head of Service Primary Care,  
HSE Community Healthcare Organisation  
Dublin North City & County,  
Ballymun Healthcare Facility,  
Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

24th May 2023

**PQ 21823/23** – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of vacant psychotherapy roles in children's primary care services in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter” – **Denis Naughten TD**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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.

There are currently no psychotherapists employed in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) children's primary care services. However, CHO DNCC child primary care psychology provide psychotherapy to children and adults. They see approximately 161 patients per week for a variety of psychological services (e.g. consultation, assessment, intervention).

There are currently 36.1 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) qualified psychologists providing such services to children and adults, of which five WTE of this total are vacant and going through the process of recruitment. All vacancies are filled in line with the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) recruitment license. CHO DNCC runs local recruitment initiatives to supplement unsuccessful national recruitment campaigns; for example, CHO DNCC conducted a bespoke recruitment campaign for unfilled staff grade posts the week commenced during the week of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Any remaining vacancies will be directed to agency recruitment using the national agency recruitment framework.

CHO DNCC also coordinates the funding of forty five trainee psychologist roles each year through Trinity College Dublin and five trainee psychologist roles through UCD to help meet demand for qualified psychologist posts. CHO DNCC plans to increase sponsorships by 15 over the next three years to increase supply, as part of a coordinated effort with the nine HSE CHOs across the country to increase the total number of trainees by 135 over the next three years.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Tom O'Brien**  
Head of Service Primary Care