



Office of the Head of Primary Care
Services
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

www.hse.ie
@hselive
@MLMCommHealth

Midlands/Louth/Meath
Community Health Organisation,
HSE Area Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly R35 TY28

t
e CHO8.HOPC@hse.ie

22nd July, 2024

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd
Leinster House
Kildare St.
Dublin 2

Re: PQ reference 30627/24 – Representation from Deputy Fergus O'Dowd requesting an update on the €50,000 that was allocated specifically to support the recruitment of a DRIVE Lead to co-ordinate the work in Drogheda and the surrounding area, in response to the Guerin report.

Dear Deputy Dowd,

Thank you for your query. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation, which you recently submitted. In preparing this response your representation has been discussed with the relevant Managers. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The HSE procurement office developed an e-tender for this position on behalf of the Community Healthcare Organisations, CHO8 and CHO1 (North East areas).

The HSE can advise that following the tendering process, MQI (Merchant's Quay Ireland) confirmed that they would be developing this post in consultation with the HSE Addiction Services and the North East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force in Q1 2024, for the North East area to include Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan.

MQI advertised the DRIVE post in May 2024. However, by the closing date, there were no applications and so it was agreed to extend this by two weeks. Following the extension period, MQI (Merchant's Quay Ireland) confirmed that there were two applications received. Subsequently, neither of these applications were shortlisted as they did not meet the required criteria.

The CHO8 Addiction Services Manager had requested a meeting with the CHO1 (Cavan/Monaghan) Addiction Services Manager, MQI Head of Service and the North East Task Force co-ordinator, to look at ways of making this post more attractive. It was agreed to increase the salary in the hope that it would gain more attention.

This post is now re-advertised with a closing date of 25th July 2024.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JR', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation