



Oifig an Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Niamh Smyth.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

28th August 2024

PQ Number: 26866/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health whether there were any derogations from the HSE recruitment embargo provided to mental health services in the period November 2023 to April 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Niamh Smyth

Dear Deputy Smyth,

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.

Requests for derogations for mental health, with the exception of the National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS), were issued from the Chief Officers in each of the nine CHO areas initially to the National Director, Community Operations, and then from the Regional Executive Officers' (REO's) to the Chief People Officer/Chief Executive Officer's office. Therefore there are no central records held within Mental Health HR.

The Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024 has been now issued. Each of the six HSE Health Regions are provided with their own specified number of WTEs and can within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise filling vacancies that may arise within the allocation. This brings an end to the derogation process implemented in November 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Mc Cusker
General Manager
HSE Access and Integration - Mental Health