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19th June, 2024

Ms. Holly Cairns T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ Ref 22769/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if psychology training courses will be funded for an intake of trainees September 2024; and if he has considered the impact on service provision of there being a fallow year for training courses as a result of the recruitment embargo, given widespread problems with recruitment and retention in disability, primary care and CAMHS services.

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to 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.

The HSE has a long history of supporting the training of psychologists in Ireland, and currently partners with six higher education institutions involved in the training of clinical, counselling, and educational psychologists. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are in place with eight separate training programmes in these institutions detailing the level of commitment and partnership in this regard.

To provide clarity in the context of the current recruitment moratorium, in May 2024 Mr Bernard Gloster (Chief Executive Officer) issued confirmation that trainee psychologists are exempted from the current HSE recruitment moratorium.

Together with the higher education institutes, the HSE has completed all joint recruitment campaigns for the incoming September 2024 cohort of trainee psychologists as per normal practice. All successful candidates have been contacted and notified. As May 2024, the HSE's Health Business Services (HBS) confirmed that seventy-six (76) trainee posts are progressing through internal HSE recruitment processes. No training posts have been blocked as part of the current employment control measures.

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

Sinead Fitzpatrick
HSCP Development Manager

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