

4th June, 2024

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,  
 Dáil Éireann,  
 Dublin 2

**PQ ref 22771/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the details of efforts to recruit psychologists to the north Lee, south Lee, west Cork and north Cork primary care psychology services in the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023; if additional staff were recruited or if existing staff were transferred between those services in each instance; and the number of psychology staff in-situ in each of the services at year-end, in tabular form.”**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

In 2017 psychology services received development funding for an uplift to the funded baseline WTE. However this is a scarce grade and recruitment was met with limited success resulting in a current workforce of approximately 50% of the funded WTE.

	<b>North Lee</b>	<b>South Lee</b>	<b>North Cork</b>	<b>West Cork</b>
<b>Current Baseline</b>	<b>Funded WTE</b>	<b>Funded WTE</b>	<b>Funded WTE</b>	<b>Funded WTE</b>
Principal Psychologist	1			1
Senior Psychologist	1	1	1	1
Psychologist Staff Grade	5.5	4	1.5	1
Psychology Assistant	6	5	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4</b>

The attached spreadsheet shows the numbers of staff in psychology at the end of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. This data has been taken from the WTE reports in December of each year.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,




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**Michael Moriarty**  
 Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,  
 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare