

27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Mr Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D.,  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 35244/24**

***\* To ask the Minister for Health if pre-registration contracts and post-registration contracts based on interviews conducted in the May/June timeframe will be offered to mental health nursing students who are set to graduate from the University of Galway in the coming weeks; if these contracts are not being offered to these graduates this year, similar to previous years, the reason for this decision; and if he will make a statement on the matter.\****

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

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;

The nurse graduates from NUIG in 2024 attended an interview earlier this year as part of the recruitment process. A graduate panel consisting of over 45 nurse graduates was formed following the interview. In September 2024, there will be 24 graduate nurses graduating from NUIG. 16 graduate nurse posts have been approved to fill vacant staff nurse positions for Galway Roscommon Adult Mental Health Service and Galway Roscommon Mayo CAMHS services. As of now, there has been no further approval to fill vacant nursing posts or, to recruit additional graduate nurses. The recruitment of staff is in line with the HSE and the Department of Health's 2024 Pay and Numbers Strategy, and all new staff are hired within these limits.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Charlie Meehan**  
**Head of Mental Health Services**  
**Community Healthcare West**