



FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt
HSE West and North West



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim

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09th May 2025

Ms Claire Kerrane
Sinn Féin TD for Galway / Roscommon
Main Street
Ballaghaderreen
County Roscommon

RE: PQ ref 19798/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason cognitive behavioural therapy in primary care psychology is no longer available under adult mental health services in Roscommon; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Kerrane

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Thank you for your interest in the adult primary care psychology service in Castlerea. The HSE APSI ('Access to Psychology Services Ireland') service delivers swift access to psychological interventions for adults with mild to moderate psychological difficulties. It has been effectively running since 2013 in Castlerea. It primarily uses CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) as an evidence-based treatment for mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

In August 2023 the APSI Castlerea practitioner left her post. Prior to it being refilled, in the autumn of 2023, a recruitment freeze came into place across the HSE. When this was lifted in 2024, the 'Pay and Numbers' strategy was implemented whereby posts vacant as of Dec 31st 2023 were decommissioned. Consequently, the role is unfilled and the APSI service is currently suspended in Castlerea.

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

Yours Sincerely

Seamus Beirne
Acting Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon