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19th February, 2024

Mr Liam Quaide, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 2595/25**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychology posts advertised within the south west regional health area primary care services since 1 July 2024; the contract type (fixed-term or permanent; full- or part-time) in each case; and the number of posts filled to date since."**

Dear Deputy Quaide,

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.

Investment in psychology is involving of three elements;

- A) Core staffing: The last uplift by way national funding in core staffing was in late 2017 and comprised of 7 staff grade psychologists and 16 Assistant Psychology posts.
- B) As part of National waitlist initiatives there has been an activity based model of funding approved since late 2021. The CHO is reimbursed per child seen and discharged from the cohort of children longest waiting.

The recruitment target at the initiative outset was 2 staff grade psychologists, .8 senior psychologist, 1 clerical officer and 2 assistant psychology posts.

- C) 1 senior and 1 staff grade psychologist were approved from local funding in 2021 to address the changing demand in and increased referrals.

Regrettably the area has had ongoing and significant recruitment challenges whereby vacancy rate has been high 2018 through 2024. During the HSE recruitment embargo November 2023 for H&SCPs, vacancies in replacement and new development posts were not filled nor was cover achieved for statutory leave. All documentation has now been submitted by the service manager for approvals within the revised pay and numbers ceiling and recruitment is ongoing to these approved posts. Since October 2024 the following posts have been expressed out by NRS and a number of posts have been accepted with commencement dates between January– March 2025.

Authorising Region	Service Area	Location	Role Title	Status
South West	Primary Care	CHO 4 - Primary Care, South Lee	Senior Psychologist	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	CHO 4 - Primary Care, Cork North	Principal Psychology Manager	Recruitment Complete; In post since Nov 2024
South West	Primary Care	CHN 10	Clinical Psychologist	Post Accepted

South West	Primary Care	South Lee - WLI	Clinical Psychologist	Unable to fill
South West	Primary Care	South Lee - WLI	Senior Psychologist	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	Kerry - WLI	Psychology Assistant	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	South Lee	Psychology Assistant	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	South Lee	Psychology Assistant	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	Kerry	Psychologist, Senior	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	MHS North Cork	Clinical Psychologist	Unable to fill
South West	Primary Care	South Lee - Paeds	Clinical Psychologist	Recruitment Complete. Start date 17/02/2025
South West	Primary Care	Kerry	Clinical Psychologist	Unable to fill
South West	Primary Care	South Lee	Clinical Psychologist	Unable to fill
South West	Primary Care	South Lee - WLI	Clinical Psychologist	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	South Lee	Clinical Psychologist	Unable to fill
South West	Primary Care	North Lee	Psychology Assistant	Unable to fill
South West	Primary Care	North Lee	Psychology Assistant	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	North Lee	Psychology Assistant	Recruitment Complete
South West	Primary Care	Social Inclusion Services	Staff Grade Psychologist	Actively recruiting
South West	Primary Care	Cork North - Blackpool	Clinical Psychologist	Actively recruiting
South West	Primary Care	Blackpool/ St Mary's Primary Care Centre Cork City	Clinical Psychologist	Actively recruiting

Posts approved for filling will be progressed by way of National HSE panels for Senior, Staff Grade and Psychology Assistant grades. If necessary where posts are not filled from the NRS (listed as unable to fill in the above template) local temporary recruitment will take place e.g. local interviews from CVs received and advertising via universities to graduates of professional psychology programmes.

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

Yours sincerely,

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