



Oifig an Cheann Seirbhíse
Seirbhíse Meabhairshláinte an Mheán Iarthair
Ospidéal Naomh Iosaef
Sráid Mulgrave
Luimneach
V94C8DV

Office of Head of Service,
HSE Mid West Mental Health Services
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Donna McGettigan
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

12th June 2025

PQ REF 31872/25: To ask the Minister for Health if she can confirm that funding for a psychologist in Ennis day hospital was stopped in September 2024 when the previous psychologist retired, and was not resumed until this February when the process of replacement began; the reason the process was delayed for the intervening months and if lack of funding contributed to the delay; the reason the transition from one psychologist to a replacement was not planned in advance to make it seamless (given that it was retirement, not an unexpected occurrence); and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy McGettigan,

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.

The Mid West Mental Health Services have to operate within a ceiling limit.

I can confirm that funding for this post was not stopped. This post was submitted for approval in August 2024. The post was approved by the Integrated Healthcare Area (IHA) Manager in Feb 2025. It was then uploaded on the Human Resources (HR) Gateway system by the Principal Psychology Manager. It got Stage 2 Regional Executive Officer (REO) approval in April 2025 and went to active recruitment. The post was expressed by the National Recruitment Services (NRS) to a National Staff Grade Psychology panel on the 6th June 2025 and there was no interest expressed by the panel. The NRS are running another national Staff Grade Psychologist campaign commencing in July 2025. It is envisaged that a supplementary panel will go live in September and the post will be expressed again to that panel. Principal Psychology Managers in the Mid West have a recruitment webinar scheduled for the 13th June 2025 with final year students of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology courses in the University of Limerick (UL) & National University OF Ireland. Galway (NUIG) in a bid to attract potential candidates to fill this post and others in the region at the same grade.

Yours Sincerely,

Nuala Kelly
Head of Service - Mental Health Services,
HSE Mid West