



Paul Murphy  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**REF PQ: 34234/25**

Dear Deputy,

I was asked to comment on a Parliamentary Question directed to the Minister for Health on staffing at the National Gender Service.

From 2020 to date, the staff complement at the NGS has been:

- 1.0 WTE Social Work,
- 1.0 WTE Occupational Therapy,
- 2.0 WTE Psychology,
- 1.0 WTE Endocrinologist,
- 1.0 WTE Psychiatry,
- 4.0 WTE Nursing,
- 1.0 WTE Speech and Language Therapy.

Further investment and service development is needed to shorten waiting times. Business cases for additional staff and clinical space were submitted to the HSE so that we can offer sufficient capacity to meet the increase in demand and reduce waiting times. Some of these cases were approved last year, but did not proceed to recruitment, as we were prohibited from recruitment by the HSE recruitment embargo.

Effects on waiting times are dependent on the experience of any recruited staff, and particularly their experience in psychosocial assessment. For those with less experience, a period of training of approximately 12 months might be needed to enable them to work independently and to see people from the waiting list. Those with recent experience in high quality psychosocial assessment, they could be expected to see people from the waiting list within three months of being onboarded.

I trust the above is useful in answering this query.



Yours sincerely,

**Lorraine O'Toole**

**Interim General Manager**

St Columcille's Hospital Loughlinsto