



**Donan Kelly, Assistant National Director, Child & Youth Mental Health Office**

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Deputy Murphy  
Dail Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

Date: 19/03/2025

**PQ Number: PQ12035/25**

**PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the understaffing in the healthcare system, specifically in terms of mental-health support, leaving some waiting for services for extended periods of time; if she will instruct her Department to address this issue; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Paul Murphy**

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Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 most recent workforce report published for Mental Health is available on the HSE website at the following link <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/mental-health-employment-report-january-2025.pdf>. This includes information on the total whole time equivalent (WTE) and Number (headcount) employed in Mental Health Services across each of the six Regional Health Areas. In summary, at the end of January 2025 a total of 11,854 (headcount), equating to 10,680 whole time equivalents (WTE) were employed across mental health services.

A total of 137.5 WTE new development posts were approved throughout 2024 under HSE National Service Plan (NSP) 2024 and additional Department of Health approved funding. A further 210 WTE new development posts are in the approval process under NSP 2025. This additional WTE allocated, across all Staff Categories, will strengthen and develop key clinical care programmes across Child and Adolescent as well as Adult Mental Health Services.

A key priority for the HSE is addressing long patient wait times and ensuring timely access to treatment and care. As part of a multi-annual approach to managing waiting lists, Waiting List Action Plans (WLAP) have been developed by the Department of Health and the HSE setting out ambitious targets to improve waiting lists and waiting times by delivering additional activity across acute hospitals and community settings.



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I trust this information is of assistance to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

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**Donan Kelly**

**Assistant National Director – Child & Youth Mental Health Office**

**National Mental Health Services**