



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,  
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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21<sup>st</sup> May 2025  
Deputy Cullinane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 26125/25 To ask the Minister for Health the quality controls which are in place for the acceptance of assessments conducted by private psychologists for use in access to public services; and the metric by which certain psychologists are accepted, and others are not.**

**-David Cullinane**

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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 26125/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Primary care psychology is a provider of psychological services at primary/community level in Ireland. The service grew out of hospital and community care models which are largely one-to-one assessment and intervention models. Today, it provides a range of services of varying intensity, encompassing education, prevention, early intervention and a range of treatments.

In relation to quality controls currently in place for private assessments, each report goes through a local governance process by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional. The process is informed by sources of information such as best practice guidelines, topic-relevant HSE policies and procedures, research, and local practice/service arrangements. There is no standard process as each governance exercise needs to be tailored to the service, content, and purpose of the report. Reports may assess several psychological processes; individual findings or recommendations may be accepted or not accepted within the one report depending on their quality or applicability to the service area.

In relation to metrics, private psychologists are neither accepted nor not accepted by the HSE although decisions such as these may be made by a professional body or regulator. The professional body for psychologists in Ireland is the Psychological Society of Ireland which maintains a voluntary register of qualified psychologists. If the HSE directly commissions services from private psychologists, it will typically seek psychologists with qualifications and experience matching the current HSE eligibility criteria.

I trust this is of assistance.

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**Seán McArt**

General Manager  
Primary Care Access & Integration