



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
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29th March 2019

Deputy James Browne TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

PQ 14213/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health his views on the growing number of resignations from CAMHS services here; his plans to counter the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 availability of skilled staff is a significant issue in mental health services where demand outstrips supply in both the national and international contexts and our workforce (particularly younger staff) are availing of employment opportunities outside of Ireland. This is symptomatic of the overall recruitment problem that Mental Health services have been experiencing for the past number of years.

On a National and International level the HSE is currently operating recruitment campaigns for Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists. Of all posts advertised in the last two years, only half have been filled due to lack of applicants or lack of appropriate qualifications for posts which require more specialist qualifications e.g. CAMHs, MHID, or because candidates refuse the post or withdraw from the recruitment process. Where there are teams without a Consultant Psychiatrist cross cover care is provided by other consultant psychiatrists

A detailed Mental Health Workforce analysis has just been finalised and identifies required actions for developing local workforce plans supported by national enabling actions.

At a local level the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) continue to target relevant events for example an international CAMHS Medical Conference in Geneva in late 2017. The CHOS are advertising in international journals and also using technology and skype to engage with prospective international candidates for screening and interview, to make the system more responsive, and reduce costs.

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The HSE continues to utilise all methods in order to attract and retain suitably qualified staff, however it is impacted by current market conditions.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sinead Reynolds'.

Dr Sinead Reynolds
General Manager Mental Health Services