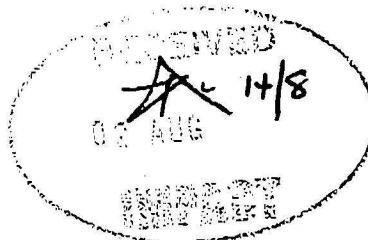




Ref: 54(a)/2001

30 July, 2001



DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND
CHILDREN
AN ROINN
SLÁINTE AGUS LEANAÍ

Shaping a
Healthier Future

REVISED CIRCULAR

Chief Executive Officer
Western Health Board (St. Anne's Children's Centre, Taylors Hill, Galway)

Regional CEO ERHA (Re: Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin; Lucena Clinic Child Mental Health Service, Dún Laoghaire (St. John of God Service); St. Paul's Hospital and Special School, Beaumont.)

Revision of the Pay and Conditions of Play Therapists

This circular replaces Circular 54/2001 and contains amendments to the conditions attaching to the upgrading of Senior Play Therapists. In particular, it removes the condition to seek the approval of the Department of Health and Children for the upgrading of *existing* Play Therapists and adds "OR" between the two situations outlined where consideration should be given to upgrading.

I am directed by the Minister of Health and Children to refer to the recommendations of the Report of the Joint Working Group on Play Therapists in relation to the establishment of the grade of basic Play Therapist and senior Play Therapist.

Recruitment

Recruitment and selection of all Play Therapist's should be carried out in accordance with normal recruitment procedures.

Basic Play Therapist:

The following educational criteria is required at recruitment stage for the post of Play Therapist:

- *A recognised third level qualification in psychology, social work, psychotherapy, counselling, teaching or related field, plus at least two years experience working with children, adolescents and their families in a therapeutic capacity, and*
- *A recognised professional qualification in play therapy or recognition of existing play therapists who are currently employed as play therapists in the Health Board as of 1st. April, 2001.*

The salary scale for this grade is set out below and payment on the new scale will be retrospective to the 1st. January, 2001.

Basic Grade Play Therapist

The salary scale for this grade will be as follows w.e.f. 1st January ,2001

<u>01/01/01</u>		<u>01/04/01</u>	
£.	Euro	£.	Euro
20,118	25,544	20,520	26,055
20,792	26,400	21,208	26,928
21,363	27,125	21,790	27,668
21,953	27,875	22,393	28,433
22,537	28,816	22,988	29,188
23,136	29,377	23,599	29,964
23,732	30,134	24,207	30,736
24,327	30,889	24,814	31,507
24,955	31,686	25,454	32,320
25,614	32,524	26,127	33,174
26,274	33,361	26,799	34,028
26,801	34,031	27,337	34,711

(LSI after 3 years on the Max.)

Note

Where it is necessary to employ a trainee Play Therapist who fulfils the required education standard she/he will be paid on the first point of the Basic Play Therapist grade on the basis that the person agrees to undertake post graduate training in Play Therapy for a minimum of two years. Incremental progression will only be considered following completion of the post graduate training.

Senior Play Therapist

Subject to fulfilling the service requirement, Basic grade Play Therapists permanently employed in the health service and working single handedly may be upgraded to Senior post subject to examination by the employing authority and also subject to the specific approval of the Department of Health and Children (*However, it is not necessary to seek the approval of the Department of Health and Children in the case of existing Play Therapists*).

Consideration should be given to claims where the basic grade Play Therapist is -

1. working single-handedly in a designated area i.e. a hospital, with a minimum of three years experience at Basic Play Therapist level, and involved in a high degree of consultation with health care professionals including responsibility for planning and managing the service.

OR

2. In charge of a designated area where at least three Basic grade Play Therapists are employed

The salary scale to apply for senior grade Play Therapist grade w.e.f. 1st. January, 2001, is as follows:

<u>01/1/01</u>		<u>01/04/01</u>	
£.	<i>Euro</i>	£.	<i>Euro</i>
26,385	33,502	26,913	34,172
26,968	34,242	27,507	34,927
27,568	35,004	28,119	35,704
28,164	35,761	28,727	36,476
28,759	36,516	29,334	37,247
29,386	37,313	29,974	38,059
30,046	38,151	30,647	38,914
30,705	38,987	31,319	39,767
31,233	39,658	31,858	40,451

Assimilation

Assimilation to the revised scales will be by way of corresponding point.

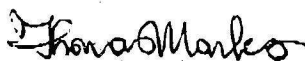
National Wage Round Increases

The scales will attract all future wage round increases under public service pay policy guidelines.

Retrospection

It is agreed that existing Basic grade Play Therapists who fall eligible for upgrading to Senior Play Therapist at the 1st April 2001 will receive retrospection to the 1st January 2001.

All queries in relation to this circular should be addressed to the Health Service Employers Agency, 63/64 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 (Telephone: 01-6626966).



Thomas Monks

Personnel Management & Development Division