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S100/219

101/96

1 January 1997

Chief Executive Officer
Each Health Board

**DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH**
AN ROINN
SIÁINTE

Staple
101/96-101/97

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Minister for Health to refer to this Department's circular letter regarding the sessional rates payable to assessment teams engaged by health boards for the diagnosis and assessment of mental handicap. The Minister's sanction may be assumed to payment of the following revised sessional rates to assessment teams attending at clinics organised by health boards with effect from 1st January 1997:

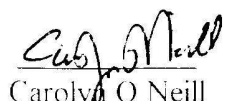
	IR£
Psychiatrist	77.54
Psychologist	66.24
Social Worker	45.62

The above rates are per 3 hour session and pro-rata.

When the assessment team travels to a clinic outside a radius of 25 miles from the team's headquarters, the Minister is prepared to increase the standard rate to psychiatrists with effect from the 1st January 1997 to £38.72 per hour for clinics of less than 3 hours duration, subject to a minimum of £46.61 and where the duration of the clinic is not less than 3 hours, £115.23 for the first 3 hours and at the rate of £77.54 for 3 or more sessions in excess of 3.

These rates apply in respect of members of the teams attending clinics on their own; however, where two or more members attend jointly at the same clinic the combined sessional rate may be increased by 35% to allow for subsequent case, conference and reporting. Travelling expenses (for one car) and subsistence at the currently approved rates may also be allowed to the voluntary organisation for whom the team has been engaged. The health board should ensure that at least six children are available for assessment at each clinic arranged in the area.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn O'Neill

Personnel Management and Development.

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