



Oifig Náisiúnta Um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisalaigh

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Deputy Mark Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th May, 2024

RE: PQ Ref PQ 16975/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the amount the HSE has spent on salaries and fees for trainee clinical psychologists in each year of the past five years, in tabular form; the number of graduates from the programme; the number who went onto work for the HSE as qualified clinical psychologists in the past five years.; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and set out below the estimated amount the HSE has spent on salaries and fees for trainee psychologists from 2019 to 2023. Trainee clinical psychologists are recruited to trainee positions for the three years of their doctoral programme with an incremental scale over that time period. They are drawn from five university programmes with slightly different fees applying in each university.

Table 1

Total Fees and Salaries Per Trainee - 2019 to 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total No of trainees (across all three years of the programme)	177	174	178	173	190
Fees* per Trainee per annum	€7,742	€8,121	€8,525	€8,954	€9,282
Salary** per Trainee per annum	€36,448	€37,085	€39,894	€39,894	€42,841
Total Fees	€1,370,334	€1,413,054	€1,517,450	€1,549,042	€1,763,580
Total Salaries	€6,451,296	€6,452,790	€7,101,132	€6,901,662	€8,139,790
Total Spend (Fees and Salaries)	€7,821,630	€7,865,844	€8,618,582	€8,450,704	€9,903,370

Table 2

Graduates	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No of Graduates per year	41	46	50	64	56

* Fees are indicative/estimated as actual fees vary across universities; the HSE pays 60% of fees; 2021 & 2019 are estimates as exact figures no longer available

** Midpoint of salary scale

*** Trainee information sourced from the HSE Census July, 2023.

It is noted that the number of graduates each year does not equate directly to a third of the total number of students. This relates to an increase in intake of students over the period shown as well as the fact that, for a



variety of reasons (e.g. maternity leave, long term sick leave, repeat placements), some students do not graduate within the intended three year cycle.

In relation to the numbers of graduates that take up posts in the HSE, the requested information is not available as it is not captured in the current recruitment application process. However estimates provided by psychology managers suggest a retention rate of 90% (HSE/S38/S39 combined).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jackie Reed".

Jackie Reed
National Lead
National HSCP Office