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30th July, 2024

Mr. David Cullinane T.D.
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
DUBLIN 2.

RE: PQ 30382/24

To ask the Minister for Health the cost of increasing trainee clinical, counselling, and education psychology places by 50%; and the number of places this would create.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 details. The HSE is currently increasing the number of trainee Clinical, Counselling and Educational Psychologists by 45 each year over 2023, 2024 and 2025. The average intake of HSE funded places across these programmes over 2023 and 2024 is 99 places per year (Table 1). To increase this level of places by a further 50% will bring the number per intake to 150 places each year for three years, Table 2.

Table 1:

Intake of HSE funded places in 2023 and 2024 Intake:

Psychology Programme	Intake 2023	Intake 2024
Clinical	80	64
Educational	17	17
Counselling	10	10
Total	107	91

The average intake per year for the three psychology programmes combined is **99**. The cost of this increase is outlined in Table 2 below:



Table 2: Total cost of fees and salary with an increase of 50% intake

Details	Clinical, Educational & Counselling Psychology	Average fee* across all three programmes per year €9,282 (HSE 60% contribution)	Total Fee per 3 years of programme	Trainee psychologists salary per year €57,684**	Trainee psychologists salary per 3 years of programme	Total cost of Fees and Salaries per year	Total cost of Fees and Salaries per 3 years of programme
Current Average intake per year	99	918,918	2,756,754	5,710,716	17,132,148	6,629,634	19,888,902
Increase of 50%	50	464,100	1,392,300	2,884,200	8,652,600	3,348,300	10,044,900
Total annual Intake (Current + 50% increase)	149	1,383,018	4,149,054	8,594,916	25,784,748	9,977,934	29,933,802

Overall cost: €29,933,802

* 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

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Reed
National Lead
National HSCP Office

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