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Date:02/04/2024

Ms Louise O'ReillyTD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ Ref PQ 10122/24 - Clinical Psychology

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health the reason healthcare professionals who have been self-employed cannot have that experience considered as relevant experience for the purposes of qualifying for HSE funded PhD doctorates in clinical psychology; if this will be rectified; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Louise O'Reilly

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Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 the following outlines the position.

The HSE does not specify the experience a candidate for a funded PhD in clinical psychology must have other than their level of academic training, eligibility for membership of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI), & possession of requisite knowledge & ability. Recruitment to these PhD programmes is conducted in partnership with the university provider. The eligibility criteria acknowledge that individual universities may set their own additional criteria as needed to assist in shortlisting and selecting the best candidates to meet the academic and placement demands of their PhD course. These criteria will vary across the universities.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jackie Reed

Jackie Reed
National Lead
National HSCP Office

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