



Office of the Head of Service Mental Health
South East Community Healthcare
St. Canices Complex
Dublin Road
Kilkenny
R95P231
Tel: 056 7784493

Mr Marc O’Cathasaigh T.D.
Dail Eireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin

14 May 2024

PQ 21663/24

To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware of the loss of the suicide crisis assessment nurse within Waterford mental health services; how the HSE plans to fill this role, given the current recruitment embargo; the length of time it is expected that service users in Waterford are to be without this vital service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O’Cathasaigh

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurse post will not be officially vacant until August 2024. I can confirm that in line with HR requirements, the necessary documentation to replace this post has been completed locally and will be submitted to Paybill meeting and onwards for derogation. Once a derogation has been received the Mental Health Services will immediately follow up to seek a replacement of this post.

Separately, it should be noted that there are a suite of Suicide Prevention Services and Resources provided across the South East Community Healthcare including ASSIST Training, liaison services, suicide bereavement counselling and other related supports.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Donaghey".

Ms Anne Donaghey
Head of Service
Mental Health SECH