

23rd August, 2024

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 23255/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the current staffing provision, per grade, of psychologists for the north Lee, south Lee, north Cork and west Cork primary care child/adolescent psychology services; and the population size each area serves, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

The table below outlines the number of WTE Psychology Staff for children and adolescents in Cork Kerry Primary Care Services, including the population for each LHO area as per the 2022 Census:

	Population (2022 Census)					
	North Lee	North Cork	South Lee	West Cork	Kerry	
Number of People	184,706	99,617	235,766	64,067	156,458	
WTE Child and Adolescent Psychology Staff						
	North Lee	North Cork	South Lee	West Cork	Kerry	WLI – Local & National
Principal Psychologist	0		1			
Senior Psychologist	0.8	0.85	0.83	1	1	0
Psychologist Staff Grade	0.8	0	0	0	1	0.5
Psychology Assistant	2	1.6	0	1	1	1.6
Psychology Student Clinical	3					

Recruitment with regard to Psychology has continued to be an area that proves challenging in filling of funded posts. We have received derogations with regard to filling of a number of psychology posts recently and these have been advanced to progressing stage. The recruitment pause was lifted on 15th July 2024 and the HSE South West is now operating under the Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024. Clarity on the details around WTE ceiling and posts approval process is underway which will give us an overview of our position once completed.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', written in a cursive style.

Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare