



Deputy Mark Ward
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

11th July 2024

PQ – 24485/24 To ask the Minister for Health to provide a comprehensive breakdown of funding for trainee counselling psychology positions at Trinity College Dublin; what options are available to students in positions that are unfunded; if efforts will be made to fund these positions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

I refer to your parliamentary question, which was passed to the HSE for response.

The HSE has a long history of supporting the training of psychologists in Ireland, and currently partners with six higher education institutions, including Trinity College Dublin, in the training of clinical, counselling, and educational psychologists. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are in place with eight separate training programmes in these institutions detailing the level of commitment and partnership in this regard.

Together with the higher education institutes, the HSE has completed all joint recruitment campaigns for the incoming September 2024 cohort of trainee psychologists as per normal practice. All successful candidates have been contacted and notified. As of May 2024, the HSE's Health Business Services (HBS) confirmed that seventy-six (76) trainee posts are progressing across these six institutions through internal HSE recruitment processes. No training posts have been blocked as part of the current employment control measures within the HSE.

The structure of this funding is currently being finalized by officials in the Department of Health. The approach will be based on best practice and knowledge gained from other health and social care funded training models and will be guided by discussions with ourselves in the HSE. I understand that an announcement will be made on the details of the funding allocation shortly and in advance of the 2024-25 academic year.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Healy
National Director
National Services and Schemes