

11th October, 2024

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

PQ ref 38945/24

“ To ask the Minister for Health the number of posts advertised in the Cork/Kerry primary care child and adolescent psychology services since January 2024; the date those posts were advertised; and the grade of psychologist post in each instance. ”

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.

Over the last number of years there have been significant challenges in recruiting staff to psychology posts (particularly temporary posts) and all options available were explored to enhance staffing. Recruitment to the service continues to be very challenging with more than half of the funded posts in the service vacant. Given the recruitment challenges, all possible options continue to be explored in order to increase staff numbers including targeting students graduating from Doctoral Psychology programmes.

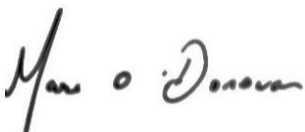
In late 2023 and ongoing, as a result of the recruitment embargo, vacancies in new and development posts have not been filled nor has cover been achieved for statutory leave. The table below outlines psychology posts currently being recruited.

Recruitment Type	Status	Status Details	Job Title Description	Geographical Area	Reason	WTE	Contract Type
Local	Recruitment Complete	Advertised 05/12/2023 Contract signed. Start date 06/11/2024	Principal Psychology Manager	Cork	Replacement post	1.00	Permanent
National Recruitment Service	Post Accepted	REO 19/08/2024 Stage 2 Approval	Psychologist, Senior	Cork South	Replacement post	1.00	Permanent
National Recruitment Service	Recruitment Complete	Exempt as per CEO 02/05/2024	Psychologist, Trainee	Cork North/Cork North Lee	Replacement post	1.00	SP Contract

The senior management team Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are presently engaged in an exercise to consolidate recruitment approvals across the psychology staffing in the CHO to commence populating an integrated stepped care model comprehensive of the continuum of care needs within primary care and CAMHS.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mari O'Donovan
 Acting Head of Service - Primary Care,
 Cork Kerry Community Healthcare