



Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin Réigiúnach,

FSS Iardheiscirt, Áras na Ceachan, Páirc
Ghnó agus Teicneolaíochta, Bóthar na Modh
Feirme, Corcaigh

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23rd September 2024

Ms. Roisin Shortall T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 35938/24:

“To ask the Minister for Health the funding allocated to the director of psychology post in the South West Regional Health Area; the date this was approved; if this allocation impacted funding to other HSE posts in the region; and if so, to provide details of same”

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

Dr Andy Phillips was appointed as HSE South West Regional Executive Officer on March 1st 2024, as the HSE moves towards devolving responsibility for health service delivery to six Regional Health Areas.

Each Regional Executive Officer is accountable and responsible for the operational service delivery within their region, and this includes determining the allocation of resources to best meet the unique needs of the regional population.

There are acknowledged issues with the long waiting lists for psychology appointments across HSE South West and the REO determined that these long waiting times must be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Dr Phillips as REO determined the need to create a director of psychology post as part of a package of measures to address long waiting times for psychology appointments in Cork and Kerry. One of the key functions of this Director of Psychology post will be to address and reduce waiting lists for child psychology appointments in particular.

The Director of Psychology post will carry a complex caseload and support innovations in the model of care; while at the same time growing clinical practice placements and ensuring that the vacant posts are filled.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Damian McGovern,
General Manager, Regional Executive Office