



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte

Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin, Baile Phámar,
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Deputy Seán Canney,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

27th September 2024

PQ Number: 36291/24

PQ Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he is aware that the HSE is refusing to employ recently graduated mental health nurses, despite the chronic shortage of mental health nursing staff in the health system and leaving graduates with no option but to emigrate to other countries; if his attention has been drawn to the further devastation that this decision will cause to the Mental Health Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Canney,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I wish to advise the Deputy, that the HSE is committed to offering a permanent contract to all 2024 nursing graduates, this includes mental health nurse graduates. This practice has been in place for a number of years.

In relation to 2024, the HSE has worked closely with colleagues in the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform and with the support of wider Government to agree and finalise the Pay and Numbers Strategy for 2024. Regional Executive Officers' (REO's) in each of the six Regional Health Authorities (RHA's) have been allocated a specified number of whole time equivalents (WTE) and can within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise appointments based on local need and service demands. The appointment of all nurse graduates is being managed within each RHA on this basis. It is understood that the majority of graduates who have applied for a permanent contract of employment have now received same with any remaining requests to appoint nurse graduates being processed by the relevant Regional Executive Officer.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and clarifies matters raised.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Dervila Eyres
Assistant National Director, Head of Operations
Access and Integration – HSE Mental Health Services