



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

2nd July 2015

Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20
01 620 1747
Fax 01 620 1626

PQ 13579/15

* To ask the Minister for Health if there is a crisis in the Health Service Executive addiction counsellor service due to the inadequate number of addiction counsellors employed by the Health Services Executive Drug Treatment Services.

PQ 13580/15

* To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the crisis in the lack of availability of adequate numbers of Health Service Executive addiction counsellors is due to a Government embargo on new recruitment and replacement of departing addiction services counsellors.

Dear Deputy Ó Caoláin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Despite the necessary budgetary restrictions which were implemented over the past number of years, the multidisciplinary teams within the addiction service have worked tirelessly to ensure that the quality of client care remains a central focus of the service. Many staff have left the service without being replaced and this has meant that difficult adjustments have had to be made to prioritise delivering a quality service in a consistent manner. The HSE Addiction Services around the country are aware of the growing need for interventions to assist those addicted to drugs and alcohol and the Community Health Organisations (CHOs) are invited to include a request for additional funding in the HSE financial estimates for 2016.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Doyle'.

Joseph Doyle
National Planning Specialist, Social Inclusion