

Mr Bernard Gloster
Chief Executive Officer
Dr Steevens' Hospital
Steevens' Lane
Dublin 8

Sent Via Email: ceo.office@hse.ie

05th March 2024

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Dear Mr Gloster,

I am writing to you once again in relation to the recruitment freeze in the HSE which commenced in November 2023. I am astonished and our members are furious that the recent memo of the 28th February, which included derogations for numerous services, did not include Mental Health Services.

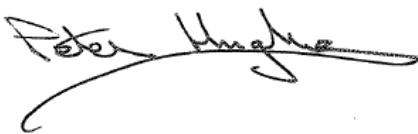
As you are aware, there are 700 vacancies in the Mental Health Services which is seriously impacting on the delivery of care, the depletion of frontline services and the inability to develop services, being of particular concern. The imposition of the recruitment embargo offers no prospect whatsoever of re-occupying the 11 beds in Linn Dara CAMHS and the 16 bedded Psychiatric Unit in St James Hospital.

These services provide a vitally important role in the provision of Mental Health Services for both children and adults in the Dublin area. It is imperative that every possible effort is made to re-open these units. To achieve this the HSE must endeavour to recruit and retain every Psychiatric Nurse available.

The provision of basic psychiatric services throughout the country is reliant on both overtime and agency. This is becoming unsustainable. It is essential that the recruitment of Psychiatric / Mental Health Nurses are exempt from the recruitment freeze, as a matter of urgency. I fear that inaction at this time will ultimately result in the closure of services.

I am seeking a meeting as a matter of urgency with regard to this issue.

Yours sincerely



Mr Peter Hughes
General Secretary

*General Secretary, Mr. Peter Hughes
Deputy General Secretary, Mr. Michael Hayes.*