

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND HOUSING
BY SENATOR K.L. MOORE
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 9th MARCH 2020**

Question

Will the Minister –

- (a) outline how many appointments have been made in the Children's Service over the past 2 years, dividing the numbers into newly qualified staff and those with more than 2 years, 5 years and 10 years Post-Qualified Experience (P.Q.E.) respectively;
- (b) identify how many people in each of these brackets have left the Service during that period of time and
- (c) state what the average period of time is that a person works within the Children's Service?

Answer

- a) In the two years to 1st March 2020, the Children's Service appointed 89 social workers, from newly qualified to Director level. 35 of the appointments were permanent and 54 were agency staff. We don't routinely capture PQE experience, but we currently have 9 newly qualified social workers in their Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYEs).
- b) During the same period, 92 social work staff left the Children's Service. 28 of these were permanent staff, and 64 were agency workers.
- c) On average, staff leaving the service over the last 2 years had been employed for 23 months. As would be expected, there are differences between permanent and agency staff, with the average length of service being 50 months, and 11 and a half months respectively.

The current staff group includes individuals who have recently started, to those who have worked for Children's Service for 20 or more years.