



25 March 2019

Deputy Michael Harty

Ref: PQ Ref 12025/19

Dear Deputy Harty

I refer to your recent parliamentary question below which was sent to the HSE for reply.

“To ask the Minister for Health if the dependency of Ireland on internationally trained non-consultant hospital doctors has grown or has reduced between 2010 and 2018 and to date in 2019; and the reason therefore”.

As the definition of *internationally trained non-consultant doctors* was not provided for the above question, the details in the first section below relates to NCHDs that have undertaken their medical degree in a country other than Ireland. Please note that the medical degree is the first step along the training pathway to become eligible for consultant positions in Ireland and would normally include many years training across different training stages including medical internships, Basic Specialist Training, Higher Specialist Training and in some cases post-CSCST training or Fellowships. For an example, an Irish citizen that undertakes their medical degree in Poland and has returned to Ireland for the remaining years of post-graduate medical training in Ireland would be classified as ‘internationally trained’ in the data below despite the majority of their training years being based in Ireland.

Please find below a summary table on data extracted from the Doctors Integrated Management E-System (DIME) based on non-consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs) who have graduated from medical schools outside of the Republic of Ireland. The numbers are those NCHDs, including Interns, who were matched to a post in Ireland both non-trainees and NCHDs now in training posts (such as medical internships, Basic Specialist training or Higher Specialist Training) trainees and non-trainees) as of 31st December in each of the years between 2011 and 2018 and to date in 2019. We do not have data available for 2010.

Year End (31/12/XX)	No. of internationally trained NCHDs (Country of Medical Degree Graduation outside of Ireland)
2011	1570
2012	1724
2013	1491
2014	1668



2015	2013
2016	2336
2017	2569
2018	2612
13.03.19	2709

As stated in the opening paragraph above, a definition of *internationally trained non-consultant doctors* was not provided. The figures in this letter related to NCHDs that completed their medical degree in a country other than Ireland. The table below provides a picture of those NCHD's that obtained their medical degree abroad divided into two groups; (a) currently undertaking post grad medical training in Ireland and (b) currently working as an NCHD doctor in Ireland not on a formal training programme.

Year End (31/12/XX)	No. of internationally trained NCHDs (Country of Medical Degree Graduation)	A. No of those internationally trained that are currently in Training Programmes in Ireland	B. No of those internationally trained working in Ireland as NCHD's that are not currently in Training Programmes
2016	2336	571	1765
2017	2569	544	2025
2018	2611	545	2066
12.03.19	2707	533	2174

NDTP do not oversee the appointment of non-training NCHDs within the system. Non-training NCHD posts are not regulated centrally and may be appointed locally by hospital to meet service needs. However, it is clear from DIME reports that nationwide the overall NCHD numbers, both training and not in training, have been increasing each year for the last number of years:

Year	Trainees*	Non- Trainees	Total NCHDs
2015-2016	3706	2011	5717
2016-2017	3838	2199	6037
2017-2018	3947	2286	6233

*Includes interns, IST, HST, ICAT and IMGTI in clinical training posts in the Irish health service. Excludes trainees in research, clinical training posts abroad and approved programme leave.



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There are many reasons for the increase in the number of NCHD posts in total which include:

- Increased recruitment by hospitals locally in order to achieve EWTD compliance.
- A significant proportion of this additional recruitment has been to smaller Model 2 and 3 hospitals and it is likely that most of the increase is represented by international medical graduates.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any further queries in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Murray', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Prof Frank Murray
Director
National Doctors Training and Planning, HSE