



Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Leinster House, Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: louise.oreilly@oireachtas.ie

28th March 2019

Re: PQ12174/19

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

PQ 12174/19 To ask the Minister for Health the number of doctors working in hospitals as consultants that are not on the specialist register of the Medical Council; the steps he has taken to address the issue; and if he will make a statement on the matter*

In March 2008 the HSE amended the qualifications specified for consultant posts to require registration in the relevant specialist division of the Register of Medical Practitioners of the Medical Council of Ireland. As at 25th February 2019, there were 156 consultants with non-specialist registration, 48 of which were employed prior to 2008.

A summary of the progress to address this issue date is outlined below:

1. A Tripartite Group has been established with significant inputs from the HSE, the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and the Medical Council.
2. Hospital Groups and CHOs have been advised by Mr Liam Woods, National Director Acute Operations and Mr David Walsh, National Director Community Operations that post-2008 consultants will require specialist registration as part of securing permanent appointment and that pending the acquisition of specialist registration, there will be a need for a risk assessment and governance of the continuance in post of any consultants in the general division.
3. A directive has been issued by the Deputy Director General (DDG) in September 2018 which prohibits appointments of further Consultants not on SDR, unless escalated to the DDG's office. This is to greatly reduce the likelihood of further consultants being appointed who are not on the SDR.
4. A project team has been setup to address the issue.
5. Site visits are being conducted and are nearing complete.
6. Correspondence and meeting with HIQA to give assurances that progress on this issue is in train

Yours sincerely,

Professor Frank Murray MD
Director, National Doctors Training & Planning