



22 October 2019

Deputy Burton
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Ref: PQ Ref 41476/19

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of hospital intern posts and the prioritisation of CAO undergraduates (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details Supplied: how many eligible graduates from Irish Medical Schools applied for posts as Hospital Interns in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, including non CAO undergraduates, the ratio of applicants to places in the years concerned, and the numbers of unsuccessful applicants."

Dear Deputy Burton

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

There are currently 734 hospital intern posts in Ireland. Applicants who accepted a place in an Irish Medical School through the CAO system will be prioritised over other applicants. This arrangement has been adopted to protect the public investment in the education of these students.

The following table outlines the data you requested:

	2016	2017	2018
Total Applications from Irish Medical School Graduates	1123	1120	1168
Eligible Irish Medical School Graduates	919	942	952
Number of Intern posts available	727	734	734
Number of unsuccessful applicants (including those who withdrew/declined and those on reserve list)	192	208	218
Ratio of eligible Irish Medical School applicants to available places	1.3 : 1	1.3 : 1	1.3 : 1

Yours sincerely

Eddie Staddon
General Manager
National Doctors Training and Planning