



National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive
Sancton Wood Building, Heuston South Quarter
St John's Road West, Dublin 8

Oiliúint agus Pleanáil Náisiúnta na nDochtúirí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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04 October 2019

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan

Ref: PQ Ref 38777/19

Dear Deputy Broughan

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

"To ask the Minister for Health the reason many consultant doctors in the health system here are not on permanent contracts; the further reason for the large number of consultant vacancies in healthcare here; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

There will always be a requirement for locum or temporary Consultant appointments which can be attributed to various reasons including:

- Posts recently approved at Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) but recruitment competitions not yet finalised. Recruitment time frames varies but at a minimum is at least 6 months. These posts can sometimes be filled on a locum or temporary basis.
- Maternity Leave
- Sick leave
- Permanent Consultants seconded to national roles e.g. Clinical Programmes, Senior HSE leads etc.
- Clinical Directors (occur a 0.5 WTE backfill)
- Chairs of various Colleges
- Reduced hours due to flexible working arrangements etc.
- Consultant posts unfilled due to lack of suitable applicants

Posts are not filled in various specialties at consultant level for a variety of reasons, including the nature of the post, personal factors, concerns about terms and conditions, working environment and resources and other reasons.

Yours sincerely

Eddie Staddon
General Manager
National Doctors Training and Planning



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