



National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive
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30th December 2020

Deputy Colm Burke
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 44307 20

To ask the Minister for Health if consideration will be given to increasing the number of basic and higher postgraduate specialist training posts in order to meet the demand with the number of posts frontloaded in year one accompanied by a corresponding increase in the number of consultants required to provide training; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above.

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

The HSE takes several factors into consideration in making its annual assessment of the number and type of BST and HST posts required within each specialty including;

- Future medical workforce planning projections
- The size of the intern cohort from the previous year
- The current number of training places in BST and HST programmes
- The type and range of HST programmes that each BST programme potentially supplies
- The attrition rate in the relevant training programme
- The training capacity of the health system
- The number and type of consultant posts in the health service

Increases for basic and higher specialist training have been approved for the July 2021 training year, after consultation with all relevant stakeholders and consideration of the factors listed above.



The increases are as follows

Specialty	Filled Yr1 Training posts July 2020	Approved training posts for offer July 2021
<i>Medicine (BST)</i>	333	360*
<i>Psychiatry (BST)</i>	69	75-80
<i>Surgery (Core/BST)</i>	60	80*
<i>General Practice</i>	214	230-235
<i>Surgical Specialty Training^ (HST)</i>	44	58
<i>Medical Specialties^ (HST)</i>	91	111

**Increases within these training programmes are currently under discussion and will be formally agreed with the relevant training bodies in January*

^Increased intakes for July 2021 have been approved across a number of the 11 Higher Surgical Training programmes

^Increased intakes for July 2021 have been approved across a number of the 17 Higher Medical Training programmes

All postgraduate training posts are approved by the relevant postgraduate training body. A key requirement of a training post is the allocation of a consultant trainer to oversee the training post, therefore the increases noted above will be accompanied by the appropriate consultant trainer supervision.

Yours sincerely

Eddie Staddon
General Manager
National Doctors Training and Planning