

Mr David Cullinane TD
Sinn Féin
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10th August 2020

Re. PQ 19054/20: To ask the Minister for Health the number of oncologists employed in the health service; the number required to meet recommendations for the size of the population and consequent shortfall; and his strategy for achieving the number.

Dear Deputy Cullinane

According to the NDTP^[1], there are 41 approved Consultant Medical Oncologist posts in Ireland currently. This is the equivalent of 1 Medical Oncologist per ~100,000 population in Ireland. As estimated by the NDTP, by 2028, a further 58 Medical Oncologists are required to meet the future needs of Ireland. This would be a total of 99. The requirement for additional medical oncologists was also detailed in the Report on the Implementation of the 2006 Cancer Strategy (link [here](#))

In order to achieve this requirement, a number of actions are underway including;

1. 22 people in the higher specialist trainee programme for medical oncology in academic year 2018/ 2019.
2. As per recommendations from the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 (link [here](#)), the following work is underway which is expected to inform the strategy to achieve the Consultant Medical Oncologist's requirements for Ireland;
 - a. NCCP Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy Model of Care
 - b. NCCP National Cancer Services workforce plan.

Yours sincerely



Ms Patricia Heckmann
Assistant National Director
National Cancer Control Programme

^[1]NDPT Demand for medical consultants and specialists to 2028 and the training pipeline to meet demand: A high level stakeholder informed analysis

[file:///S:/Medical%20Oncology%20&%20Haematology/Model%20of%20Care%20\(Systemic%20Therapy\)/Workforce%20Planning/Medical/Demand%20for%20Medical%20Consultants%20and%20Specialists%20to%202028%20Final%20Version.pdf](file:///S:/Medical%20Oncology%20&%20Haematology/Model%20of%20Care%20(Systemic%20Therapy)/Workforce%20Planning/Medical/Demand%20for%20Medical%20Consultants%20and%20Specialists%20to%202028%20Final%20Version.pdf)