



National Doctors Training and Planning
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Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 22517/21

To ask the Minister for Health if the requirements of the European Working Time Directive are considered in the medical workforce planning process which determines the number of specialist training positions available to non-consultant hospital doctors.

Dear Deputy Shortall

From a medical workforce planning perspective, specialist training numbers are based on projected consultant demand over a 10 year projection period. Consultant demand is in turn based on the analysis of major drivers of change to the future of a specific specialty, generally over a 10-year projection period. This typically involves close engagement with major stakeholders including National Clinical Programmes, Postgraduate Training Bodies and other relevant stakeholders. Drivers of change underpin the future demand for workers and include population and epidemiological change, new models of care, service reconfiguration, EWTB compliance, economy, new staffing models, developments in health technologies and interventions. A more comprehensive list of the major drivers for change can be found within the methodological framework currently used to determine medical workforce requirements <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/plan/mwp-guide.pdf>.

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