



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Chief Clinical Officer
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Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Clínicíúil
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

15/11/2021

PQ 50764 /21- Deputy Aindrias Moynihan- To ask the Minister for Health the status of the implementation of the new model for public health medicine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

Stage 1

In December 2018, the Department of Health published a report by Crowe Horwath on the 'Role, Training, and Career Structures of Public Health Physicians in Ireland'. In Quarter 2 2019, the HSE commissioned a programme to develop a future model for Public Health.

Stage 1 of the Programme has now been completed and this included:

- A high level operational model for Public Health
- An agreed number of Consultant in Public Health Medicine posts
- The scope, role, and function for each Public Health domain of Public Health
- International connectivity to ensure alignment with international best practice
- Organisational engagement and agreement

Stage 2

In 2020, a number of significant Public Health activities were progressed:

- A Pandemic Workforce Plan was developed and implemented in response to COVID-19. This included €17.3m committed to deliver enhanced multidisciplinary Public Health teams.
- Intensive engagement with the Department of Health and IMO culminated in an agreement to establish Consultant status for the Public Health specialty for the first time in Ireland.
- The adaptation and enhancement of a Population Health Needs Assessment tool to optimise resource allocation.

This work has strengthened regional departments of Public Health by providing significant additional surge capacity, has improved operational management, and has provided greater development opportunities for all disciplines in the Public Health specialty.


At present, the Programme Governance for Public Health Reform is remobilising to drive implementation of this complex change programme against the backdrop of ongoing Covid-19 response.

The Reform Programme is progressing the following activities:

- The recruitment of 34 priority Consultant in Public Health Medicine posts by the end June 2022, with priority focus on Health Protection and Area Consultant capacity
- Preparedness for the reconfiguration of 10 Departments of Public Health into 6 Public Health Areas aligned to Sláintecare, establishing a hub and spoke model
- Planning for the realignment and deployment of resources based on a population health need
- Information & Communication Technology Enablement: needs assessment and planning

I hope this provides you with assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

Sharon Hayden
General Manager
Office of the CCO