



22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref: PQ 43134 To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to increase the general practitioner trainee intake to 250; the number of places provided for each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

#### **National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response**

There have been annual incremental increases in the number of GP training places available over the past 5 years (as seen from the figures in the table below) to support the future requirements for the GP workforce as outlined in the NDTP 2015 Future Demand for General Practitioners 2015-2025 workforce planning report.

The estimated additional costs to accommodate an increased intake to 250 trainees into the GP training programme for the July 2022-23 training year would be approximately €100,000.

This cost would be solely related to the estimated costs to support an increased intake to 250 trainees for the July 2022-23 training year, and does not reflect the additional costs relating to the overall increase in trainee numbers across all four years of the programme or subsequent years of training.

Annual increases in the number of GP training places on the programme are provided through the conversion of suitable non-training posts to support the reduction of the health systems overreliance on non-training scheme doctors.

The table below provides the training places available for intakes onto the GP training programme over the last five years.

Intake Year (July)	Number of GP Training Places
2017	173
2018	187
2019	202
2020	217
2021	236

Leah O'Toole  
Assistant National Director