



National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive
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Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 17642/22

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to increase basic specialist training posts by 1%; the number of posts this would result in; the additional workforce requirements incurred by same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Increasing the number of training posts required to ensure the appropriate supply of suitably trained specialists, through the conversion of non-training posts to training posts, remains a key priority of the HSE in order to move towards a consultant delivered health service. Figure 4.9 within the Medical Workforce Report 2021-22 <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/> shows the intake number of doctors into Initial Specialist Training (IST) posts since 2017. The average growth rate in the IST intake over the five year period is 4.4%. Further growth across a number of postgraduate training programmes in line with workforce planning projections are planned. The HSE works in close collaboration with the training bodies and National clinical programmes to determine, on an annual basis, the number of medical training posts required by the health service.

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director