



**National Doctors Training and Planning**  
Health Service Executive  
Sancton Wood Building, Heuston South Quarter  
St John's Road West, Dublin 8

**Oiliúint agus Pleanáil Náisiúnta na nDochtúirí**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Sancton Wood Building, Ceathrú Heuston Theas  
Bóthar Eoin Thiar Baile Atha Cliath 8

Tel: (01) 7959924  
E-mail: [doctors@hse.ie](mailto:doctors@hse.ie)  
[www.hse.ie/doctors](http://www.hse.ie/doctors)

21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref:** PQ 17643/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to increase higher 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 4.10 within the Medical Workforce Report 2021-22 <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/> shows the intake number of doctors to Higher Specialist Training (HST) posts since 2017. The intake into HST posts has been increasing at a rate of 3.4% per year on average over the last five years. 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