



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director  
Acute Operations

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston  
South Quarter, Military Road,  
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie  
@hselive

t 01 795 9971  
e acute.operations@hse.ie

19th April, 2022

Mr. David Cullinane, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

***PQ 18070/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of new medical interns who were taken on in each year since and including 2014, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - David Cullinane  
DUE DATE: 19/04/2022***

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National Doctors Training Programme (NDTP) have provided the following data in relation to the number of new medical interns taken on since 2014 ;

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021
684	727	727	733	734	734	995	854

*\*2020 - In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Minister for Health requested the HSE to increase medical intern posts to provide a post for all Irish medical school graduates (CAO and Non-CAO) who wished to accept a post. This resulted in the total number of intern posts increasing to 995, a 36% increase from 2019. This increase was for one year only, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021 intake was reduced by 14% to 854. The reduction in the number of intern posts in 2021 reflects a return to a more sustainable level of interns post COVID-19. These figures align with the number of Initial Specialist Training (IST) Posts which represent the next step in postgraduate medical training and workforce demand estimates.*

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

---

Carol Ivory

General Manager, Acute Operations