



22nd April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 19008/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of doctors who completed their internship with the HSE in each year since 2012; the number which subsequently took up employment with the HSE in each year in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Please see table below which provides the total number of doctors completing internship in Ireland from 2012-2022. The completion rate of the internship programme is very high, with less than .5% attrition from the programme on average per annum.

Number of Intern Posts 2012-2022

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
570	640	684	727	727	733	734	734	995	854	854

* 854 Intern posts are available for the July 2022 Intern year, recruitment for the July intake is currently in progress.

Following the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Fottrell report (Medical Education in Ireland: A New Direction, 2006), there has been an incremental annual increase in the number of exchequer-funded students entering into, and subsequently graduating from, Irish medical schools.

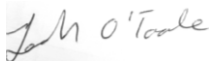
As it is Government policy to provide an internship opportunity for each CAO graduate, the number of available intern posts had been increased on a number of occasions, although it remained largely static between 2015 and 2019 when there were more than enough intern posts to accommodate all CAO graduates. Between 2012 and 2021 the number of intern posts has expanded by 284 places, at an average growth rate of 4.6% per year.

In 2020 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 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 post in 2021 reflects a return to a more sustainable level of interns post Covid-19, and is aligned with the number of IST Training Posts available and workforce demand estimates.

HSE-NDTP have recently commenced tracking of Doctors who complete Internship in Ireland. Early and provisional data shows that a high percentage of interns who graduate leave Ireland for at least one year. However, the data shows that 82% of interns who commenced one year intern training in July 2015* subsequently commenced a Basic Specialist Training (BST) or General Practice (GP) training programme in subsequent years (2016-2021). A small number of the 2015 also remain in the Irish system either in service grade posts or employed within the Private Sector.

**Data used in this tracking project is collected from the NDTP Doctors Integrated Management E-System (DIME), which was implemented in the 2015/2016 training year.*

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director