



National Doctors Training and Planning
Health Service Executive
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11th May 2022

Deputy Paul Kehoe
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 19432/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical consultants employed by the HSE who are permanent, who became permanent as a result of holding locum posts in hospitals for a number of years and who are not allowed to register on the Medical Council specialist register; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

The data contained in this response is extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 03 May 2022. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

The information in DIME provides the status of a consultant's tenure at any one point in time. The functionality does not exist to record what their previous tenure was before taking up their current permanency.

The qualifications specified by the HSE require that consultants be registered as Specialist on the Specialist Division of the Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland in the relevant specialty. Doctors can apply, through one of the many available routes by the Medical Council, to the Specialist Register at any point in time.

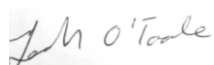
Table 1: Number of Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) approved Consultant Posts as at 03 May 2022

	Permanent	Agency	Temp / Locum	Total
Number of Filled Consultant Posts	3048	61	342	3454
Number of Consultant Posts with an unknown status				6
Number of Consultant Posts with a vacant status				130
Number of vacant newly created Consultant Posts (posts never filled)				343
Total number of CAAC Approved Consultant Posts				3933
Total number of consultant posts filled not approved by CAAC				148

Definitions of Status

Filled	The clinical site has verified that a Consultant currently occupies this post.
Vacant	Recruitment for the post may be underway but the clinical site has verified on DIME that this is currently a vacant post. An appointment may have been made to a number of these vacancies with a prospective start date. It should be noted that there is often a significant period of time between approval of a consultant post through CAAC to the commencement of the recruitment process and ultimately the recruitment of a Consultant to a post. The vacancy figure includes a combination of posts that have previously been filled but have become vacant and posts that have never been filled.
Posts filled but not approved by CAAC	There are a number of posts which have not been regulated by CAAC. This can be for a number reasons which include short-term service demands or the site has not yet submitted an application to CAAC.

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director