



16 December 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number: 61318/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of new medical interns who were taken on in each year since and including 2019, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter -Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

Please see below response to the above PQ:

Year	2019	2020*	2021	2022
Number of Interns	734	995	854	821

**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 the approved number of Intern posts 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.*

The matching process for Intern posts for 2022 concluded in June following all eligible candidates, including all those on the reserve list, receiving an intern post offer. As a number of vacancies remained, a supplementary reserve list was created in an effort to fill the remaining Intern posts.

NRS offered all remaining unfilled Intern posts from this supplementary reserve list, following validation of eligibility and a matching process as per the current recruitment guidelines. The HSE has undertaken an enhanced national recruitment campaign for the July 2023 Intern places to increase awareness of the number of approved Intern posts available and the relevant opening and closing dates for all stages of the recruitment process, 1436 eligible applications have been received following closure of stage 1 of the 2023 Intern recruitment process.

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole

Assistant National Director