



**National Doctors Training and Planning**  
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Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Ref:** PQ 8550/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the manner in which hospital-based training places across the medical profession are coordinated between the Department, the HSE and training bodies; his plans to improve upon this model; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Entry to postgraduate medical training is a competitive process managed through the Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, who are accredited by The Medical Council of Ireland. Training posts are inspected on an annual basis by the postgraduate training body to determine the ability of the post to deliver the required training and supervision in a specialty according to the requirements as defined by the relevant curriculum of training body. The training location/hospital must provide an appropriate training environment and facilities that allow the trainee to develop the essential knowledge, skills and clinical judgement required for the specialty. Following recruitment, the postgraduate training body recommends trainee appointments into suitable training posts to the HSE who then issue a contract of employment.

In order to provide greater predictability at the outset of their training journey, all newly appointed trainees receive a minimum of 2 years pre-defined rotations, a minimum of 13 weeks prior to commencing training/entry to their training scheme. Trainees entering year 3 of a training scheme receive a minimum of 2 years pre-defined rotations a minimum of 13 weeks prior to commencing year 3 of the scheme. A number of training schemes are also moving towards a more regionalised structure of training. This is specialty dependent but examples include the intern rotations which take place within a particular intern network and geographic location. Rotations within the basic training scheme in General Medicine are provided within regional hubs. General Practice and Psychiatry training programmes are generally completed within a particular region, and schemes such as Radiology take place predominately in one hospital. This is an area that is kept under constant review.

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole  
Assistant National Director