



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

Ref: PQ 1435/22

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has examined changing non-consultant hospital doctor changeover and rotation requirements; if an analysis has been conducted on the effectiveness and comparative benefit of changeover and rotation; if so, the result of the analysis; if he has engaged with trainees or their union representatives to obtain their views; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Introduction of the online National Employment Record (NER) has now eliminated the requirement for duplication of paperwork associated with NCHD rotations. The system involves each NCHD registering a secure NER portal account, which provides a central location on which to upload documentation required by the employing authority. This includes items such as Garda Vetting forms, Occupational Health questionnaires / Exposure Prone Procedure (EPP), PCS (Professional Competence Scheme) enrolment forms, Hire Forms, mandatory training certificates and CVs. It is now used by circa 7,900 NCHDs.

Greater predictability of the location of rotations are now provided to trainees at the outset of training. 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, while 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 moving towards more a 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.

Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director