



19th July 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Ref: 35963/22

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 391 of 7 April 2022, the number of doctors who completed internship in Ireland in each year 2015-2022; the number of interns who graduated and since left Ireland in each year for at least one, two, three, four, and five or more years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Please see Table 1 below which outlines the number of Internship posts available in Ireland in each year 2015-2022. The completion rate of Internship is very high, with less than .5% attrition from the programme on average per annum.

Table 1: Number of Intern posts (2015-2022)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*
727	727	733	734	734	995	854	854

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

HSE-NDTP have recently commenced a tracking project of Doctors who complete Internship in Ireland. This work is on-going however provisional data, outlined in Table 2 below, shows that in the year following Internship for the 2015-2020 graduates on average 31% are on a Basic Specialist Training (BST) programme in Ireland, 21% are practicing medicine in Ireland in non-training roles, and 48% have no record of employment with the HSE. The latter suggests that these doctors may have left the country, are working in the private sector in Ireland, or are not working in a clinical role. In the second year following Internship the proportion of interns in BST programmes increases to 52% on average. The number in non-training posts reduces to 7% and the proportion who have no employment record with the HSE is 42%.

Table 2: Status of Interns (2015-2020) in Irish health service in subsequent years**

	1 Yr Post Internship			2 Yr Post Internship		
	% in BST post	% in Non-training posts	No HSE clinical post record	% In BST	% in Non-training posts	No HSE clinical post record
2015	39%	14%	47%	60%	5%	34%
2016	34%	16%	50%	54%	5%	41%
2017	31%	19%	50%	48%	6%	46%
2018	30%	18%	52%	52%	8%	40%

2019	32%	34%	34%	45%	9%	46%
2020	26%	25%	49%	2020 data not currently available		
Average	32%	21%	47%	52%	7%	42%

The provisional data above shows that close to half of Interns are not working in the HSE for at least one/two years following internship. Further data provided in Table 3 below illustrates the percentage of doctors who commenced one year intern training between the years 2015-2020 and return following a period out of the Irish Public health system to take up employment within a service grade post or training post in subsequent years (2016-2020).

Table 3: Intern cohorts subsequently working in the Irish public health system

Intern Year	Commenced service post or training post in Ireland (2016-2020)
2015	87%
2016	86%
2017	81%
2018	73%
2019	73%
2020	52%

***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. DIME is a quadripartite system which encompasses National Doctors Training & Planning, the Medical Council of Ireland, the Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and Clinical Sites. DIME records registration, training and employment details of all Consultant and Non Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) in Ireland who are employed in the Public Service.*

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director