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Eoin Ó Broin T.D.

8th August, 2022

PQ 41805/22 To ask the Minister for Health if there are any exceptional circumstances through which the HSE might relax the qualifying criteria for a course at an institution (details supplied). -Eoin Ó Broin

Details supplied - *Royal College of Surgeons Ireland; Course: Physician Associate. Having spoken to the college, an individual who wishes to attend the course without having the required grades due to several medical issues in the final year of her degree was advised by RCSI the qualifying criteria come from the HSE.*

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question which was sent to the HSE for response.

The grade of Physician Associate has not been introduced into the Irish Public Health Service, although a pilot programme is being run by the RCSI.

The potential role of any proposed new grade of Health and Social Care practitioners would be a matter for consideration by the Department of Health in the context of Sláintecare reforms. The position of the HSE is that the potential introduction and role of any such grade would be dependent on consultation with the Department of Health, as well as other key stakeholders, as determined by the Department of Health.

In the event that the role of Physician Associate was to be introduced into the Irish public funded Health Service, the eligibility criteria for same would be determined through the standard mechanisms.

Yours sincerely,

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR