



National Doctors Training and Planning
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Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 29472/22

To ask the Minister for Health when the consultant psychiatrists - recruitment and retention plan, drafted by the College of Psychiatrists and the National Doctors Training and Planning, will be published; the reason for the delay; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

The HSE- National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) undertook a project to identify factors contributing to the challenge in recruitment and retention of consultant psychiatrists and to make recommendations to address the findings. The HSE NDTP formed a group to examine the issue and the group represented a wide collaboration among stakeholders involved in the delivery of psychiatry services across Ireland, including HSE Mental Health Services, HSE Clinical Programmes and the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland.

Consultation with stakeholders was in the form of site visits, focus groups, meetings, and a survey. Responding to the restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the meetings and focus groups were done virtually or delayed which extended the timeline of project's completion.

The purpose of the report was to inform the HSE recruitment and retention strategy relating to consultant psychiatrists. Following completion of the project the draft of the report was review internally within the HSE. While awaiting the final edits on the report a number of meetings internally within the HSE were held to consider and progress the recommendations within the report.

The report has now been finalised. Copies of the report will be provided to stakeholders who participated in the process by the end of the June.

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director