



National Doctors Training and Planning
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To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of increasing basic specialist training places by 10% and the number of places that this would create; the additional staffing requirements to facilitate such an expansion and the estimated cost of same.

Increasing the number of basic specialist training places by 10% would create an initial 59 extra places approximately (excluding the General Practice training programme). Basic specialist training programmes are between 2 – 4 years in duration. An increase intake of 10% would equate to approximately an increase of 140 trainees enrolled in higher specialty training after four years.

The costs of an medical training are complex and include salaries, delivery of training through professional bodies, financial supports, scholarship and fellowship opportunities and other hidden costs to complement medical training. Every training post is a salaried post within which service is also delivered. Trainees may occupy any of the following grades – Intern, Senior House Officer, Registrar, Specialist Registrar with salaries currently ranging between €38,572- €85,520 depending on the grade held
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/1-october-2021-consolidated-salary-scales.pdf>.

Increasing the number of training posts required to ensure the appropriate supply of suitably trained specialists, predominantly through the conversion of existing non-training posts to training posts, remains a key priority of the HSE in order to move towards a consultant delivered health service. Figure 4.09 within the Medical Workforce Report 2021-22 <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/> shows the intake number of doctors to Basic Specialist Training (BST) posts since 2017. The intake into BST posts has been increasing at a rate of 4.4% per year on average over the last five years. Further growth across a number of postgraduate training programmes in line with workforce planning projections are planned. The HSE works in close collaboration with the training bodies and National clinical programmes to determine, on an annual basis, the number of medical training posts required by the health service.

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole

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