

David Cullinane TD
Sinn Féin
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

e. david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

6th July 2022

PQ 33157/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time equivalent radiation oncology professionals currently in post in the public system per 100,000 people in the population of Ireland; the number of full-time equivalent radiation oncology professionals that are required in order to meet the current and projected demands on the radiation oncology service to 2030; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 33158/22: To ask the Minister for Health the training, recruitment and retention plans that are in place to ensure that a sufficient number of radiation oncology professionals are in post to meet current and projected demand; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

NCCP are currently reviewing the 2017-2022 National Radiation Oncology Workforce Plan which highlighted the deficits in the clinical workforce. Significant workforce investment has been made in the last 5 years and NCCP are working with the clinical service to update the numbers in line with international best practice. This will be completed by year end.

Parallel to this a separate needs assessment and horizon scanning for the future Radiation Oncology workforce is taking place and will inform the next plan. The learning from COVID 19 and the Cyberattack will be integral to the plan. This should also be completed by year end.

NCCP currently follows the HSE guidance for recruitment and retention of all staff. This is applied at a local level to include Radiation Oncology clinical staff. There are no current localised plans relating to Radiation Oncology. There are discussions within the working group about incorporating recommendations for the recruitment and retention of staff into the new National Radiation Oncology Workforce plan 2022-2027.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme