



20th May 2022

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 23511/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of Irish and European Union and the number of Non-European Union doctors who were awarded intern posts in each of the years 2016 to 2022, in tabular form; the number of intern posts available in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

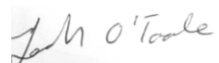
The HSE applies the Employment Permits Act in the recruitment of the intern posts. In compliance with the Employment Permits Act an order of merit based on work permit status is applied. Intern posts are allocated according to a preference system where by all eligible CAO entrants to Irish medical schools who are work permit exempt, who are tax-payer funded, are guaranteed an intern post. Following that, the remaining posts are preferentially allocated to all remaining and eligible EEA applicants, followed by all remaining and eligible non-EEA applicants. The table below provides the numbers of posts and entry category of Interns for each of the years 2016- 2021*.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020**	2021
CAO Entry	678	679	676	606	664	698
Non-CAO EEA and work permit exempt	33	26	41	27	36	27
Non-EEA requiring work permit	15	28	17	98	295	126
Number of Intern Posts	727	733	734	734	995	854

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

**In 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Minister for Health requested the HSE to increase medical intern posts to provide a post for all Irish medical school graduates (CAO and Non-CAO) who wished to accept a post. This resulted in the total number of intern posts increasing to 995 for one year only. The 2021 Intern places reflects a return to a more sustainable level of interns post Covid 19. This number is aligned with the number of Posts available at the next stage of postgraduate training and workforce demand estimates.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah O'Toole". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director