



24th May 2022

Deputy Cormac Devlin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Ref: PQ 23871/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of trainee doctors trained within Ireland in each of the years since 2016; the number of persons who took up a post in Ireland; the average cost per trainee doctor in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Devlin,

National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Response

Table 1 below provides the numbers of doctors in training in Ireland since 2016.

Table 1	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Interns	727	733	734	734	995	854
BST/IST	1507	1,554	1,576	1,605	1,758	1,845
HST	1398	1,510	1,562	1,711	1,806	1,970
IMGTI Scholarships	89	105	109	105	115	129
Total Training NCHDs	3721	3,902	3,981	4,155	4,674	4,842

Basic Specialist Training (BST)/ Initial Specialist Training (IST)
Higher Specialist Training (HST)
International Medical Graduate Training Initiative (IMGTI)

The costs of 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>.

Costs associated with the provision of training through the medical schools and postgraduate training bodies vary depending on medical specialty and stage of training and cannot be released due to commercial sensitivity.

Trainees can also avail of a number of financial schemes to complement their medical training:

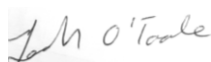
- The Training support scheme provides for reimbursement of €750-€2000 per annum depending on grade for approved exams, courses or conferences. Further information available here [Training Supports Scheme User Guide](#)
- The Higher Specialist training fund is open to higher specialist trainees and 3rd/4th year GP trainees only. The funding available to each trainee is €500.00 per year of training and the fund rolls over if not claimed in a particular year. Further information available here [HST Fund Guidance document](#).
- Trainees can claim the full costs of approved examination/courses under the Clinical Course Exam Refund Scheme (CCERS). Further information available here [CCERS Guidance document](#)

The HSE provides funding to support 32 trainees annually in supernumerary half time posts through the National Supernumerary Flexible Training scheme. The scheme facilitates doctors on a training programme to continue their training in a flexible manner for a set period of time. Further information is available here [Flexible training guidance document](#).

The HSE also provides for a number of additional fellowship and scholarship posts annually for trainees:

- The Dr. Richard Steevens' Scholarship supports a number of trainees to undertake training in centres of excellence overseas in novel areas of medicine and patient care which are limited or unavailable in Ireland and to bring the skills gained back to the Irish health service. Further information is available here [Dr Richard Steevens Guidance document](#)
- Funding is available annually for 24 Trainees pursuing a Master's Degree in Management and Leadership Skills to further promote and support clinician leadership amongst trainees and prepare doctors for future management and leadership roles [Leadership and management Guidance document](#)
- Since July 2021 the HSE has established 40 fully funded Aspire Post CSCST Fellowships annually in Ireland. These Fellowships provide opportunities for those doctors who have completed specialist training in Ireland to access high-quality training in a specialised area of clinical care, to enhance their suitability and competitiveness for a consultant post. They are designed for doctors who need to acquire additional training or experience which was not available on their Higher Specialist Training programme. Further information is available here <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/leadership-education-development/met/ed/postcscst/>

Yours sincerely,



Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director