



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Colm Burke  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 47963/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he and his Department will engage with the HSE to put in place the necessary procedures for the employment of theatre assistants in view of the major challenge of the shortage of theatre nurses in many hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.  
Due: 18/10/2022**

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HCA Programme is tasked with progressing the implementation of the recommendations set out in the "Review of the Role and Function of Health Care Assistants" 2018 report. Roll out of this programme is a priority for National HR. Work has commenced with the inaugural meeting of the oversight group and two of the four workstreams held recently.

The above-mentioned 2018 report includes reference to the issues and potential developments for HCAs working in perioperative settings. This is scheduled to be examined as part of phase 2 work of the HCA programme.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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John Smith  
Assistant National Director  
Acute Operations