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18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Re. PQ 48046/22: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to address staff shortages of radiation therapists; if there are plans to review recruitment and retention policies regarding Radiation Therapists, including staffing levels and service capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane

The investment to ensure an adequate Radiation workforce has been progressed by NCCP, this was based on 2017 Workforce plan which benchmarked the service against international comparators. Unfortunately the recruitment and retention of Radiation Therapists has proved challenging and it is hoped that an external review carried out by SIPTU, HSE CERS and the DOH will help address the issue.

The review aims to look at areas such as:

- Advance Practice and Career Development in line with HSCP Frameworks, including credentialing pathways. This will include looking at practices outside of the scope of current structures.
- Training, Education & Continuous Professional Development including access to funding and dedicated time.
- Strategic Workforce Planning across the profession
- Development of Recruitment and retention strategies for the profession
- Optimum use of resources within work schedules & rostering, including skill mix and safe staffing.
- Radiation therapist students training and career development

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide  
National Director  
National Cancer Control Programme