



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Pauline Tully  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

***PQ 34230/23 To ask the Minister for Health how far below optimum levels of staffing of medical scientists in HSE laboratories nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Dear Deputy Tully,

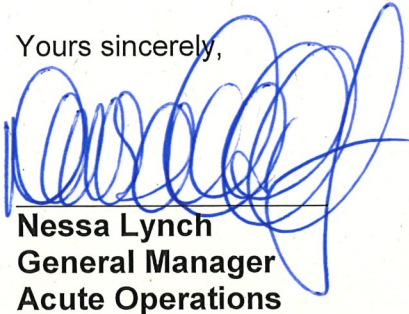
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE is aware of the significant recruitment difficulties associated with the recruitment of Medical Scientists and the impact this recruitment shortage currently has across laboratory services. The HSE is working in close collaboration with the Department of Health and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to advance further training places for Medical Scientists. In respect of this, discussions are advancing with two Higher Education Institutes to put in place additional training places for both undergraduate and post graduate training opportunities for Medical Scientists. It is important that these training places will be in line with CORU related requirements and this work is also underway.

In addition, the HSE is also advancing initiatives to further enhance the recruitment of suitably qualified Medical Scientists both nationally and internationally. The HSE will continue to work in collaboration with a range of stakeholders to address the shortage of available Medical Scientists.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



**Nessa Lynch**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**