



19th September 2023

Deputy Alan Kelly
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number: PQ ref 38084/23

Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the cost of a 20% increase in clinical training places for initial specialist training, higher specialist training and clinical psychology; and the number of additional places this would result in".

Dear Deputy Kelly,

Please see material in the table below detailing of the cost of a 20% increase in initial specialist training and higher specialist training and the number of additional places this would result in. Please note this excludes General practice and Clinical Psychology.

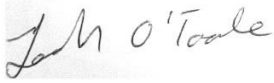
	2023 Trainee Intake Figures	2024 Intake places based on 20% increase	Salary & Training costs of 20% increase in intake*
Interns	879	1055	€8.9 million p.a.
BST/IST Intake	643	772	€9.7 million p.a.
HST Intake	419	503	€7.7 million p.a.
Total	2220	2671	€26.3 million p.a.

**HSE midpoint scales have been used to estimate salary costs and associated PRSI above. Trainees may occupy any of the following grades – Intern, Senior House Officer, Registrar, and Specialist Registrar with salaries currently ranging between €41,223 - €86,742 depending on the grade held: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/hr-circulars/final-1-march-2023-salary-scales.pdf>.*

Annual increases in the number of training places are generally provided through the conversion of suitable non-training posts to support the reduction of the health systems overreliance on non-training scheme doctors. The costs of specialist medical training are complex and include delivery of training through professional bodies, financial supports, scholarship and fellowship opportunities and other hidden costs to

complement medical training. Training costs associated with these posts above are estimated and will vary depending on specialty and length of programme. Please note the costs outlined are re-occurring and cumulative, given the duration of BST programmes range between 2-4 years, and HST programmes 4-6 years.

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