

Chief Executive Office

Tel: +353 1 4103833

+353 1 4162521

Email: reps@stjames.ie

13th May 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 15588/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of filled genetic counsellor posts in the cancer genetics department in St. James's Hospital; how this compares to international standards; whether there are recruitment plans; if any recruitment challenges exist; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

Our Cancer Genetics Department has four WTE permanent senior genetic counsellor posts and four one-to-two-year temporary genetic counsellor posts. This is 80% below international comparators. The National Genetics and Genomics Office is developing a workforce plan to address recruitment and retention of genetic counsellors. Recruitment challenges are that there is no HSE grade code or career structure in place for genetic counsellors, there is a lack of permanent positions for retention and there is no training programme in Ireland for genetic counsellors.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Aisling Collins

Interim Chief Operations Officer