



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy Darren O'Rourke  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**PQ19566/25-To ask the Minister for Health if she plans to lift the recruitment embargo on physician associates; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

Thank you for your representation.

The HSE has paused the recruitment of physician assistants. In the National Service Plan the HSE has committed to carrying out an assessment of the role to ensure appropriate deployment of the role. Physician Assistants are not regulated by any of the Irish health regulators and the HSE and Department of Health must ensure that the appropriate and standardised governance arrangements are in place across the HSE before further growth in the numbers employed.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer