



17th February 2025

Mr Paul Lawless, TD
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ2516/25
To ask the Minister for Health the number of GPs in Westport, County Mayo; if she plans to provide more training places for doctors; and if she will incentivise them to live and work in that area.

Dear Deputy Lawless

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Eight General Practitioners located in six GP practices currently hold contracts with the HSE for the provision of services to Medical Card patients in Westport, Co. Mayo. GPs are permitted to employ additional doctors in private capacities to support them in their work if they wish. However the number involved is not known, as GPs are not required to provide details of same to the HSE.

The intake of trainees on the GP Training Schemes nationally has risen substantially over the past four years as follows:

2021	236
2022	258
2023	285
2024	350

Of the 350 places that were recruited nationally in 2024, 36 are being trained locally on the Western GP Training Scheme.

All GP Trainees receive the same Contracts of Employment and no incentives are given for being placed in particular areas throughout the country. However when trained, GPs who hold contracts with the HSE in rural areas receive additional supports under the Rural Practice Support Framework for working in such areas.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Mary O' Halloran
Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon