



Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

16th June 2025

PQ 31004/25 - To ask the Minister for Health to outline the contingency plans in place in public hospitals in the event that a consultant is not in a position to provide on-call hours; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

Where a consultant cannot provide on-call hours that are identified by senior Hospital Management and Clinical Director as required, there are many mechanisms a hospital can consider.

These measures are dependent on the specific specialty or service, duration of situation and type of on-call involved.

Please see a non-exhaustive list below:

- review of entire hospital on-call roster capacity and flexibility to consider amendments that will support on-call cover,
- availability of other consultants for extra on-call cover,
- availability of appropriate Locum consultant cover, and
- consideration of other Hospital's capacity to support on-call, particularly where on-call relates to a regional or national specialty.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Sheila McGuinness
Access & Integration