



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

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Mr. David Cullinane, TD

28 March 2025

PQ 14068/25 (Health): To ask the Minister for Health 1159. how many physicians' associates are currently employed in public and private hospitals across the State – David Cullinane

PQ 14069/25 (Health): To ask the Minister for Health how many physicians associates were employed in public and private hospitals annually since 2019 – David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent Parliamentary Question which was sent to the HSE for response.

In response to your PQs referenced above, I can confirm the HSE has no visibility or jurisdiction over the workforce within the private healthcare sector and therefore cannot comment on same.

However, I can confirm there are currently 30.5 WTEs employed in the HSE as Physician Assistants / Associates. The HSE does not have visibility over historic recruitment activity and therefore cannot ascertain how many Physician Associates have been employed since 2019.

It should be noted that since July 2024 the HSE has paused the recruitment for this grade pending the outcome of an independent review. This review will examine the role of Physician Associates and make recommendations regarding the governance of the role, scope of practice and appropriate deployment within Ireland.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR