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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

26<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**PQ 14072/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if the independent assessment of the physician's associate role, as referred to in the HSE National Service Plan 2025, has commenced; if the independent assessor has been appointed; who the independent assessor is if they have been appointed; how long she anticipates the review to take; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your representation.

The role of Physician Associate (PA) is currently not a sanctioned grade within the HSE. To further develop this role the HSE will commission an independent expert, who will carry out a comprehensive assessment of the physician assistant role internationally and make recommendations for standardisation and scope of practice. The recommendations from this review will be incorporated into the role of the PA in the future. This is a commitment outlined in the National service plan 2025.

The agreement of the terms of reference for this review is at its final stages inclusive of stakeholder engagement. It is expected that this review will be completed by year end.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer