



07/04/2025

Deputy Michael Cahill
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number: PQ14157/25

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the cost of a 20% increase in clinical training places for medical interns, initial specialist training, higher specialist training and clinical psychology; the number of extra places this would result in; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy Michael Cahill,

Please see material in the table below detailing of the cost of a 20% increase in Intern places and medical specialist places (initial specialist training and higher specialist training intakes excluding GP trainees) and the number of additional places this would result in.

	2024 Trainee Intake Figures	Additional posts based on 20% increase	Additional Salary & Training costs of 20% increase in intake*
Interns	879	176	€ 10.1million p.a.
BST/IST Intake	633	127	€9.8 million p.a.
HST Intake	421	84	€8.4 million p.a.
Total	1933	387	€28.3 million p.a.

*Please note the following:

- Assumes establishment of new NCHD posts to accommodate increase in trainees. The HSE midpoint scales have been used to estimate salary costs and associated PRSI above. Trainees may occupy any of the following grades – Intern, Senior House Officer, Registrar, and Specialist Registrar with salaries currently ranging between €50,000 - €106,000 depending on the grade held. The estimated salary costs do not include overtime costs
- The costs outlined are re-occurring and cumulative, given the duration of BST programmes range between 2-4 years, and HST programmes 4-6 years.

- The costs of specialist medical training are complex and include delivery of training through professional bodies, financial supports, scholarship and fellowship opportunities and other hidden costs to complement medical training. Training costs associated with these posts above are estimated and will vary depending on specialty and length of programme.

HSE-sponsored clinical psychology training programmes run in five universities.

Each trainee requires three years of training in order to qualify.

There are currently 216WTE clinical psychology trainees employed by the HSE.

61WTE of the total number are due to graduate in September 2025.

A 20% increase in the number of trainee clinical psychologists would mean an increase of 43WTEs on current numbers.

Cost of 43WTE training places:

- Salary (midpoint): €46,663 x3yrs x43WTE = €6,019,527
- 60% of fees to be paid by HSE: €8,664 x3yrs x43WTE = €1,117,656
- **Total cost: €7,137,183 over three years (or €2,379,061 per annum)**

References for relevant pay & fee costs are detailed in Table 1 & 2 below.

Table 1: Pay scale for clinical psychology trainees as at 01.03.2025

Year	Pay point
1	44,473
2	46,663
3	50,425

Table 2: 2025/26 Training programme fee structures by university

Fees	EU	60% fees
TCD	13,953	8,372
UCC	14,700	8,820
UCD	15,920	9,552
UG	13,001	7,801
UL	14,630	8,778
Average	14,441	8,664

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole

Assistant National Director