



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí
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Mr. Pádraig Rice, TD

27 May 2025

PQ 27382/25 (Health) – To ask the Minister for Health to outline the basis for the recruitment embargo on physician associates; to provide an update on the review of this role; the timeline for competition of said review; the number of physician associates currently employed by the HSE; the status of their posts since the review was announced; and if she will make a statement on the matter - Pádraig Rice

Dear Deputy,

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

The 2025 HSE National Service Plan committed the HSE to carry out an independent comprehensive assessment of the physician assistant role internationally and to make recommendations for standardisation, scope of practice, and appropriate deployment in Ireland. This assessment is expected to be completed by the end of end of 2025.

Given this commitment to carry out an assessment of the role to ensure appropriate deployment the HSE has paused the recruitment of physician assistants (PAs).

There are approximately 30 Physician Assistants/Associates currently employed by the HSE. The status of these posts remains unchanged following the publication of the 2025 National Service Plan.

I trust this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Mairéad Ryan
National HR