



12/06/2025

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number: PQ 28723/25

Question:

"To ask the Minister for Health the cost of increasing hospital intern, basic specialist, and higher specialist training places by 10%; and the number of places this would create, in tabular form."
David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Please see the material in the table below detailing of the cost of a 10% 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 10% increase	Additional Salary & Training costs of 10% increase in intake*
Interns	879	88	€5.04 million p.a.
BST/IST Intake	633	63	€4.8 million p.a.
HST Intake	407	47	€4.4 million p.a.
Total	1919	198	€14.24 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 - €110,000 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.

Yours sincerely,

Leah O'Toole
Assistant National Director

