



Príomhoifigeach Daoine

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Mr. Pádraig Rice, TD

21 October 2025

PQ 52748 25 (Health) - To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 721 of 27 May 2025, the status of the HSE's review of the physician associate grade, if she will publish the terms of reference for this Review; the date at which she expects this review to be completed; 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.

Having consulted with the National Doctors Training and Planning Unit seeking an update, they have provided the same response in PQ No. 721. *This assessment is expected to be completed by the 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