



28 May 2012

Mr. Steve Tweed
Director, Industrial Relations
Irish Medical Organisation
10 Fitzwilliam Place
Dublin 2.

Dear Mr. Tweed

The Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, T.D., has asked me to thank you for your recent letter concerning intern places for medical graduates.

The Report of the Undergraduate Medical Education and Training Group (Fottrell) and the Report of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Group (Buttimer) formed the basis of Government policy for major reform of medical education and training from undergraduate level through to postgraduate specialist training.

Fottrell recommended an increase in the number of medical places for Irish and EU students on a phased basis over the period 2006 to 2011 with the objective of achieving self-sufficiency in terms of medical staffing. Projections of the number of EU graduates from Irish medical schools suggest that the increase in graduates will begin to have a significant impact on the availability of intern posts from 2013 onwards. The Department and the Health Service Executive are actively pursuing a range of initiatives to cater for the 2013 intern intake and beyond.

The HSE had concerns at the availability of intern posts for the July 2012 intake; however, they recently confirmed that the number of applicants for these posts is substantially less than what was originally expected and the existing number of intern posts is sufficient to cater for the EU applicants remaining in the recruitment process and some non-EU applicants.

I trust that this clarifies the matter for you.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Doran
Private Secretary

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

An Roinn Sláinte / Department of Health

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