

IMO



IRISH MEDICAL
ORGANISATION

16th February 2017

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Ms Rosarii Mannion
National Director, Human Resources
Health Service Executive
Dr Steevens Hospital
Dublin 8

Re: Vacant Director Post, Health Protection Surveillance Centre

Dear Ms Mannion

I write to you to express the concern of the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) at the ongoing failure of the Health Service Executive (HSE) to fill the post of Director of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC).

I am advised that since the post became vacant in May 2016, two recruitment campaigns have proven to be unsuccessful; indeed I am advised that the second campaign failed to attract any applicants.

The absence of a Director for the HPSC, and consequent lack of continuity of leadership, represents a risk to the public health when set in the context of the increased complexity of health protection issues, and increasing numbers of emerging threats, such as Ebola Virus Disease and Zika, for example.

Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the specialist Public Health Medical staff in the HPSC, the recruitment of a Director must be made a priority for the HSE.

As you will know, the IMO has long argued that specialist Public Health Medical staff ought to be accorded the same terms, conditions and status as their Hospital Consultant colleagues. The failure of the HSE to attract any applicants for a role of this importance and profile serves to underline the relative unattractiveness of a career in Public Health Medicine in Ireland.

The IMO urges the HSE to take immediate steps to recruit a Director for the HPSC, and also to engage with us to devise terms and conditions for specialist Public Health Medical staff that will recognise their level of expertise and responsibility, and avoid situations such as this arising in the future.

I look forward to your prompt reply in this matter.

Yours sincerely


Anthony Owens

CEARDCHUMANN
DOCHTÚIRÍ na hÉIREANN

Assistant Director, Industrial Relations

cc: Dr Stephanie O’Keeffe, National Director for Health & Wellbeing, HSE.

