



DÁIL ÉIREANN

SOLÁTHAR CÚRAIM SLÁINTE I PPOBAIL TUAITHE.

Rith Dáil Éireann an Rún seo istigh ag an gCruinniú de Dháil Éireann a bhí ann an 21ú lá seo d'Fheabhra, 2024.

HEALTHCARE PROVISION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.

The within Resolution was passed by Dáil Éireann at its Meeting on this 21st day of February, 2024.


An Leas-Cheann Comhairle

Le cur go dtí:

For transmission to: *An Taoiseach*

Go ndéanann Dáil Éireann:

a aithint:

- go bhfuil rochtain ar sheirbhísí cleachtaidh ginearálta éifeachtach inbhuanaithe mar bhunchloch i soláthar cúram sláinte;
- go bhfuil an Rialtas, ag aithint dó an tábhacht a bhaineann le cleachtadh ginearálta agus ag admháil do go bhfuil dúshlán ann chun seirbhísí cleachtaidh ginearálta inbhuanaithe a choinneáil i gceantair áirithe, tar éis infheistíocht i gcleachtadh ginearálta a mhéadú go suntasach le blianta beaga anuas;
- go bhfuil caiteachas ar chleachtadh ginearálta tar éis méadú ó €561 mhilliún in 2019 go €784 mhilliún in 2022, agus gur dóigh go mbeidh an caiteachas in 2023 os cionn €800 milliún;
- go bhfuil sé dúshlánach lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta a mhealladh i gceantair áirithe;
- gur méadaíodh an Deontas um Chleachtadh Tuaithe 10 faoin gcéad le cur i ngníomh Chomhaontú Lia-Chleachtóirí Ginearálta na bliana 2019, rud a mhéadaigh an tacaíocht airgeadais do lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta tuaithe;
- go bhfuil an Rialtas tar éis líon na spásanna oiliúna do lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta a mhéadú ó 258 in 2022 go 286 in 2023 agus go 350 in 2024;
- go bhfuarthas 1,311 iarratas ó chéimithe leighis ar an gclár oiliúna do lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta in 2024, arb é an méid is airde riagh é;
- go dtugtar le fios i dtáighde ón Roinn Sláinte go rachaidh idir lia-chleachtóir ginearálta go leith agus triúir lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta isteach sa chleachtadh in aghaidh gach lia-chleachtóra ghinearálta a rachaidh ar scor sna ceithre bliana amach romhainn;
- go bhfuil an Rialtas tar éis maoiniú a chur ar fáil don chomhthionscnamh idir Coláiste Dhochtúirí Teaghlacha Éireann agus Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhise Sláinte (FSS) maidir le Lia-chleachtóirí Ginearálta Tuaithe nach as AE, gur earcaíodh 112

That Dáil Éireann:

recognises that:

- access to effective and sustainable general practice services is a cornerstone of the delivery of healthcare;
- the Government, recognising the importance of general practice and acknowledging the challenges faced in some areas to maintain sustainable general practice services, has significantly increased investment in general practice in recent years;
- expenditure on general practice has increased from €561 million in 2019 to €784 million in 2022, with expenditure in 2023 likely to exceed €800 million;
- some areas are experiencing challenges in attracting General Practitioners (GPs);
- the implementation of the 2019 GP Agreement increased the Rural Practice Grant by 10 per cent, increasing the financial support to rural GPs;
- the Government has increased the number of GP training places from 258 in 2022 to 286 in 2023 and 350 in 2024;
- applications to join the GP training programme in 2024 reached the record-high level of 1,311 medical graduates;
- research undertaken by the Department of Health indicates that for every GP retiring over the coming four years one and a half to three GPs will enter practice;
- the Government has provided funding to the joint Irish College of General Practitioners/Health Service Executive (HSE) non-EU Rural GP initiative that resulted in the recruitment of 112 GPs from outside Ireland in 2023, with 75

lia-chleachtóir ginearálta ó lasmuigh d'Éirinn in 2023 dá bharr, agus go raibh 75 acu ann cheana féin roimh dheireadh na bliana;

- go bhfuil an Rialtas tar éis maoiniú a chur ar fáil chun lín na lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta a earcófar faoi Thionscnamh na Lia-Chleachtóirí Ginearálta Tuaithe nach as AE a mhéadú go dtí suas le 250 in 2024;
- go léiritear i suirbhéanna ó Choláiste Dhochtúirí Teaghlach Éireann go bhfuil sé i gceist ag tromlach mór de lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta atá ag ar tí oiliúint a chríochnú fanacht in Éirinn agus a bheith ag obair i gcleachtadh ginearálta ann;
- go bhfuil ról an chleacthaidh ghinearálta i gcónai ag forbairt chun seirbhísí nua agus nuálacha a áireamh, mar an Clár um Bainistiú Galar Ainsealach, a chabhraíonn le hothair ar a bhfuil galar scamhóige toirmeascach ainsealach, asma, galar croí ainsealach, agus diaibéiteas chun a gcuid fadhbanna sláinte a bhainistiú ar shlí réamhghníomhach sa phobal, rud a chuireann lena gcaighdeán saoil;
- go bhfuil an Rialtas tar éis acmhainní a chur ar fáil chun go bhféadfaidh cleachtóirí ginearálta othair a tharchur go díreach chuig seirbhísí diagnóiseacha, agus go bhfuil tréimhsí feithimh níos giorra agus diagnóis ag tarlú níos luaithe dá bharr;
- go bhfuil an Rialtas seo tar éis caiteachas ar sheirbhísí sláinte a mhéadú go suntasach i rith an ama, agus, dá bharr sin, go bhfuil méadú 26,000 tagtha ar bhaill foirne FSS, 1,126 ghéarleaba ospidéil breise ann, 25 faoin gcéad níos mó leapacha dianchúaim ann agus laghdú tagtha ar liostaí feithimh ospidéil ar feadh dhá bliain as a chéile in 2022 agus 2023;
- go ndearnadh infheistíocht bhereise shuntasach i seirbhísí cúram sláinte béal, lena n-airítear leathnú in 2022 ar an gcúram atá ar fáil faoi Scéim na Seirbhísí Cóireála Fiaclóireachta do dhaoine fásta atá i seilbh cárta liachta agus méadú 40-60 faoin gcéad ar na táillí a iocatar le fiacloirí d'fhormhór a gcóireálacha; agus

already in place by year-end;

- the Government has provided funding to increase the number of GPs recruited under the non-EU Rural GP Initiative to up to 250 in 2024;
- Irish College of General Practitioners surveys have demonstrated that a large majority of GPs graduating from training intend to remain and to work in general practice in Ireland;
- the role of general practice is continually evolving to include new and innovative services, such as the Chronic Disease Management Programme which helps patients living with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, chronic heart disease, and diabetes to proactively manage their conditions in the community, improving quality of life;
- the Government has put in place the resources to allow GPs to refer patients directly to diagnostic services, resulting in reductions in waiting times and earlier diagnosis;
- this Government has consistently made significant increases in expenditure on health services, resulting in an increase of 26,000 staff in the HSE, an additional 1,126 acute hospital beds, 25 per cent more intensive care beds, and a fall in hospital waiting lists for two years in succession in 2022 and 2023;
- there has been considerable additional investment in oral healthcare services in recent years, including an expansion in 2022 of care available within the Dental Treatment Services Scheme for adult medical card holders and a 40-60 per cent increase in fees paid to dentists across most treatment items; and

- gur laghdaíodh líon na leanaí atá ag fanacht ar chúram ortódóntach poiblí 47 faoin gcéad idir 2019 agus 2023 de bharr infheistíocht mharthanach le blianta beaga anuas; agus

a aontú:

- go bhfuil an Rialtas tiomanta do sheirbhísí fiaclóireachta a athchóiriú ó bhun tríd an mBeartas Náisiúnta um Shláinte Bhéil, Smile agus Sláinte, a chur i ngníomh agus go ndéanfaidh Ceannasaí Athchóiriú Straitéiseach FSS athchóiriú seirbhíse do dhaoine fásta agus do pháistí a spreagadh de réir beartais in 2024;
- go bhfuil cleachtadh ginearálta i gceantair uirbeacha agus thuaithe araon ina ghairm níos tarraingtí do chéimníthe leighis de bharr infheistíocht mhéadaithe;
- go dtarlóidh méadú ar líon na lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta a chuireann seirbhísí ar fáil i gceantair uirbeacha agus thuaithe araon mar gheall ar thionscnamh an Rialtais chun líon na spásanna oiliúna a mhéadú agus chun lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta nach as AE dóibh a earcú; agus
- go mbeidh méadú sa chójimheas idir lia-chleachtóirí ginearálta agus an daonra agus seirbhísí feabhsaithe d'othair ann de bharr na mbeart lena bhfuil an Rialtas seo tar éis tacú.

- sustained investment in recent years has reduced the numbers of children waiting to access public orthodontic care by 47 per cent between 2019 and 2023; and

agrees that:

- the Government is committed to fundamentally reforming dental services through implementation of the National Oral Health Policy, Smile agus Sláinte and that the HSE's Strategic Reform Lead will drive service reform for adults and children in line with policy in 2024;
- increased investment is making general practice in both urban and rural areas a more attractive career prospect for medical graduates;
- the initiatives taken by the Government to increase the number of training places and to recruit non-EU GPs will result in an increase in the number of GPs providing services in both urban and rural areas; and
- the measures supported by this Government will result in an increase in the ratio of GPs to population and improved services for patients.