Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Doctors Joining the Register in 2025

Supplementary Workforce Report

Introduction

This supplementary workforce report provides a description of doctors who joined the Medical Council's Register in 2025. This includes doctors who registered for the first time as well as those who restored their registration after a period of not being on the Register. The analysis focuses on those who joined at any time during the calendar year of 2025 *and* remained on our Register at the end of the 2025 calendar year. These two cohorts comprise a total of 7,099 doctors.

Doctors Registered for the First Time

In 2025, 6,665 doctors registered with the Medical Council for the first time. By year-end 2025, 6,445 (96.7%) of these doctors were still on the Medical Council's Register. The content that follows focuses on these doctors who joined the Register for the first time *and* remained on the Register in 2025.

A demographic breakdown of doctors registering for the first time can be observed in Table 1 below. The gender breakdown was closely split, with slightly more males (*n* = 3,315, 51.4%) than females (*n* = 3,130, 48.6%). The mean age of first registered doctors was 32.5 years (SD = 7.2 years), and 72.4% (*n* = 4,663) were 34 years of age and younger.

The majority of these first registered doctors (*n* = 4,750, 73.7%) were registered on the General Division at year-end. In terms of qualifications, 67.4% (*n* = 4,341) of doctors obtained their basic medical qualification outside of Ireland, the EU or the UK. Of those doctors who received their basic medical qualification outside of Ireland, the EU and UK (international graduates, *n* = 4,341), 64.0% (*n* = 2,779) completed their medical degree in Pakistan, and a further 15.8% (*n* = 688) completed their medical degree in Sudan.

Table 1. Doctors Joining the Register for the First Time.

First Registered Doctors (n = 6,445)		
Age	**Mean**	**SD**
	32.5	7.2
Age group	**N**	**%**
34 and younger	4,663	72.4
35 to 44	1,333	20.7
45 to 54	322	5.0
55 and older	127	2.0
Gender	**N**	**%**
Male	3,315	51.4
Female	3,130	48.6
Division	**N**	**%**
Intern	896	13.9
Trainee Specialist	11	0.2
Supervised	194	3.0
General	4,750	73.7
Specialist	594	9.2
BMQ	**N**	**%**
Irish	800	12.4
EU or UK	1,304	20.2
International	4,341	67.4
Top 5 Countries of International Graduates	**N**	**%**
Pakistan	2,779	64.0
Sudan	688	15.8
South Africa	176	4.1
China	126	2.9
Malaysia	88	2.0

Doctors Restored to the Register

In 2025, 672 doctors restored their place on the Register. These doctors were previously registered with the Medical Council, left for a period of time, and were now restoring their place on the Register. At year-end 2025, 654 (97.3%) of these doctors were still on the Medical Council's Register. The content that follows focuses on these doctors who restored their place on the Register *and* remained on the Register in 2025.

A demographic breakdown of doctors restoring their registration can be observed in Table 2 below. Within this cohort, 61.2% (*n* = 400) were male, and 38.8% (*n* = 254) were female. The average age was 40.7 years (SD = 11.3 years) and 37.0% (*n* = 242) were 34 years of age or younger.

In relation to the division of the Register at year-end, 54.9% (*n* =359) of these doctors were registered on the General Division, while 33.0% (*n* = 216) were registered on the Specialist Division. Just under half of doctors restored to the Register (*n* = 309, 47.2%) had obtained their basic medical qualification in Ireland. Of the doctors who received their basic medical qualification outside of Ireland, the EU or UK (international graduates, *n* = 251), 44.6% (*n* = 112) obtained their medical degree in Pakistan.

Table 2. Doctors Restoring their Place on the Register.

Restorals (n = 654)		
Age	**Mean**	**SD**
	40.7	11.3
Age group	**N**	**%**
34 and younger	242	37.0
35 to 44	210	32.1
45 to 54	106	16.2
55 and older	96	14.7
Gender	**N**	**%**
Male	400	61.2
Female	254	38.8
Division	**N**	**%**
Trainee Specialist	76	11.6
Supervised	3	0.5
General	359	54.9
Specialist	216	33.0
BMQ	**N**	**%**
Irish	309	47.2
EU or UK	94	14.4
International	251	38.4
Top 5 Countries of International Graduates	**N**	**%**
Pakistan	112	44.6
Sudan	49	19.5
South Africa	21	8.4
Egypt	11	4.4
Nigeria	9	3.6

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Conclusion

In 2025, 7,099 doctors joined and remained on the Medical Council's Register in 2025. The majority of these doctors joined for the first time (*n* = 6,445, 90.8%), and the remainder restored their place (*n* = 654, 9.2%). Notably, this is an increase from 5,304 during the same period in 2024. While the total joiners increased substantially, this may, in part reflect the impact of the processing improvement project undertaken from July to December, which focused on reducing backlogs and improving processing times.

This total reflects doctors who are permitted to practise medicine in Ireland, not those who are clinically active. A proportion of these do go on to commence work in the Irish health system, however, a proportion do not. No details on planned clinical activity are captured at the point of Registration, as this information is captured the following year in May/June if they retain their place on the Register. Furthermore, qualitative feedback provided by doctors choosing to voluntarily withdraw from the Register indicates that some doctors leave the Register without ever practising in Ireland.

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