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###### Not for publication before midday, Saturday 6 October 2012

**Revised terms for new consultants will exacerbate recruitment difficulties**

Speaking at the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Hospital Consultants Association, IHCA President **Mr. Denis Evoy** said: “Ireland has been finding it progressively more difficult to recruit consultants with appropriate training and experience. The number of eligible applicants for advertised consultant posts continues to decline sharply and over one-fifth of the vacant consultant posts were not filled in 2011. Services are already overstretched. We have only two thirds the number of consultants that was recommended by Government a decade ago. “

“International experience and training bring the latest techniques and the highest quality of medical care to our hospital services. Offering a job to doctors who will not have such experience is irresponsible as it will lead to Irish medicine falling behind international best practice.”

“The recruitment problem will get worse with potential candidates shunning the new proposed terms and conditions. This gives rise to grave concerns because it will not serve the best interests of our patients. “

**Ends**

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**Copy of full script is available on request**