



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 5, 2019

Mr. William Prasifka  
Chief Executive Officer  
Medical Council of Ireland  
Kingram Place  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

Dear Mr. Prasifka:

On September 27, 2019, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Medical Council of Ireland on behalf of the Government of Ireland regarding the country's medical education accreditation activities.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to monitor the continuing comparability of the country's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the system used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' participation in the Direct Loan program, access the Foreign School Information Web page at: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA accepted the special report from Ireland, and the country is due back for a redetermination of comparability before the NCFMEA in September 2024.

The NCFMEA wishes to thank you and Ms. Aoise O'Reilly for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding the Medical Council of Ireland's activities. Your testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued your participation in the meeting.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Medical Council of Ireland before the fall 2024 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the material.

If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at [jennifer.hong@ed.gov](mailto:jennifer.hong@ed.gov).

Thank you for providing the information regarding the country's accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,



Betsy DeVos

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Ireland Desk Officer