



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

December 10, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Prasifka:

The National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met on September 26-27, 2018. One of the agenda items was 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 determine the 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 <https://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

The NCFMEA reviewed the information submitted regarding the Medical Council of Ireland's accreditation activities on behalf of the Government of Ireland for a redetermination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank you, Ms. Una O'Rourke, Ms. Aoise O'Reilly, and Dr. John Barragry 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.

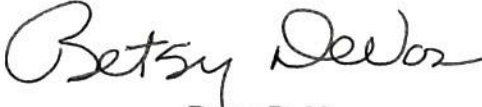
The NCFMEA determined that the standards and processes used by the Medical Council of Ireland to accredit medical schools in Ireland are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States. The NCFMEA further required a special report from the country in one year regarding the Council's system for collection, review, and analysis of graduate medical education placement rates for U.S. graduates.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Medical Council of Ireland before the fall 2019 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy DeVos

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