

Date 2nd June 2020

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PQ5800/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of applicants signed up for the Be on Call for Ireland initiative; and the number of applicants deployed in each CHO area to date in tabular form

Dear Deputy McDonald,

Many thanks for your representation in relation to the Be on Call for Ireland campaign.

From mid February 2020 the HSE began to make preparations to increase significantly the capacity within the health services in anticipation of this potential unprecedented demand for Health services.

From a staffing perspective this included a number of strategies inclusive of exploiting all existing recruitment pools, maximising agency staff, rehiring of recently retired clinicians, increasing hours of part time staff, encouraging staff to return from career breaks and the postponement of annual leave.

The 'Be on Call for Ireland' initiative was launched on St Patrick's Day. The main priority of this project was to provide 'job ready' health care professionals to the health services in the event of the anticipated increase in hospital beds and community service staffing requirements. It should be noted that at that time Ireland was potentially facing a similar situation to that of the health services in Spain and Italy. At the time of project launch, the widest possible cohort of potential applicants was given an opportunity to apply to meet the potentially unprecedented service and social care demands. This included volunteers, however as the programme developed and in tandem with community initiatives volunteers were directed to developing community based initiatives that may have a priority need of their skills sets.

In answer to the question "To ask the Minister for Health the number of applicants signed up for the "Be on Call for Ireland" initiative:

The number of applications for the 'Be on Ireland on Call' initiative was approximately 73,000, however over 44,000 of the applications were either administrative/support/volunteers. Fortunately the management and administration requirements were met through redeployment both across the health services but also across the broader civil and public service. It was important that the HSE targeted its efforts to provide health services and therefore many of the essential support (non- health care) services were provided through Volunteer Ireland and other well established networks such as the GAA. The 15,000 volunteer applicants were redirected towards Volunteer Ireland.

When examining the remaining applicant pool of 29,000 it was essential that the HSE took a broad view of the health services and did not in any way destabilise existing services by depleting other parts of the services i.e. private hospitals, voluntary organisation or private nursing homes.

Of this number it was established over 10,000 were already working in the health services. 1,000 were not registered with the relevant body and therefore could not work. A further 3,000 were undergraduates and over 1,000 withdrew. This left a residual number of approximately 14,500.

To this end the 'Be on Call for Ireland' initiative only targeted qualified health care workers who were not currently providing health services. The progression of the main categories is summarised below:

Category	Registration Pool - Self Identified as this discipline	Relevant Pool	Screened (Availability/ Eligibility Telephone Interview)	Confirmed Available & Passed Interview	Total Pool	Candidates in Clearance	Candidates Completed Clearance	Assigned / Placed	Job Ready
Nursing & Midwifery	6569	2128	1734	657	423	236	187	61	126
Doctors	1938	542	426	398	347	171	176	12	164
HCA / MTA	5191	1116	820	597	357	255	102	29	73
Dentists	795	354	295	246	245	119	126	0	126
Scientists	215	167	141	27	25	17	8	2	6
Cleaners / Domestic	258	69	54	25	23	19	4	0	4
Porters	493	149	122	67	62	52	10	0	10
Catering	577	257	210	97	90	85	5	0	5
Medical Laboratory Aides	1947	1946	148	95	92	59	33	3	30
Surveillance Scientists	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	3	0
Surveillance Assistant	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	0
Other relevant disciplines inc. HSCP, other Support Staff categories	11237	7608	649	360	304	169	104	15	89
Totals:	29225	14341	4604	2574	1973	1185	757	127	633

To answer the question "the number of applicants deployed in each CHO area to date in tabular form":

To date 127 health and social care appointees have been deployed from the "Be on Call for Ireland" initiative to HSE services in both community, acute and public health departments. An additional 633 candidates have full recruitment clearances in place and are "job ready" as per service need. 1185 candidates are in the clearance process.

The breakdown of deployment for each CHO is as follows:

Candidates deployed to CHOs 020620	
CHO	Total assignment*
CHO1	5
CHO2	5
CHO3	5
CHO4	3
CHO5	6
CHO6	0
CHO7	4
CHO8	6
CHO9	3
Total	37

I hope this has provided you with the information you have requested and if you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.



Yours sincerely,

Eithne Fox
Assistant National Director HBS HR