

Date 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett  
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**PQ8281/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff recruited to the health service since the outbreak of the Covid-19 crisis; the status of the contracts for these staff including the formal employer of these staff; if these contracts are permanent or temporary; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

Many thanks for your representation in relation recruitment to the health service since the outbreak of the Covid 19 crisis.

A critical part of the COVID 19 planning process has been to ensure that the workforce that is required is maximised and upskilled where necessary to take on the front line roles that are essential in our response. The HSE has been expanding its workforce rapidly in response to COVID 19.

Recruitment activity for COVID 19 is conducted through 3 major channels, HBS Recruit, local recruitment and the Be on Call for Ireland initiative with an additional project for Undergraduate Student Nurse to be employed as HCAs.

During COVID emergency, HBS Recruit has appointed 1,524 staff and 926 Medical Interns. I can confirm that 1,278 (84%) of these staff appointments were permanent. Medical Interns are employed on 12 month NCHD contracts. The remaining appointees were issued with standard Specified Purpose contracts. A further 1,247 Student Nurses (Years 1 to 3) have been employed as Health Care Assistants across the HSE for a defined period. All HSE appointees are issued with standard contracts specifying standard terms and conditions of employment.

To date 162 appointees have been employed through the “Be on Call for Ireland” initiative are placed on agency contracts with conditions similar to that of the HSE.

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**