



**Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna**

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

**Office of the National Director of Human Resources**

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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**David Cullinane, T.D.**

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**PQ 27484/20:** To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in the Be on Call for Ireland pool; the number that have been assigned or placed in services; the number of staff hired through Be on Call for Ireland with HSE contracts; the number with agency or temporary contracts; the reason staff are being hired as agency or temporary staff when there is a demonstrated need for them to be employed as HSE staff; if his Department is seeking to avoid employer obligations by hiring staff as temporary or agency staff; if all employed to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic are working on valid contracts; the number that are working on temporary contracts which have expired; if he can guarantee that not a single worker brought on to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic is working on an expired contract; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions above which were sent to the HSE for reply.

From mid February 2020 the HSE began to make preparations to increase significantly the capacity within the health services to manage the challenges presented by Covid. The HSE was preparing for a level of crisis similar to that of mainland Europe and therefore it was anticipated that the numbers required would have been substantial and immediate. In response to this, the Be on Call for Ireland (BOCI) campaign launched. Candidates recruited through the BOCI were appointed on short term agency employment contracts.

As of 06-10-20 there are 749 “job ready” candidates from the Be on Call for Ireland initiative. “Job ready” means they have all their recruitment clearances in place and may take up positions as they become available or as the role suits the personal circumstances of the candidate. 263 candidates have started in roles in the community, acute services and public health roles from the ‘Be on Call for Ireland’ process are renewed in line with service need.

The HSE also engaged in Temporary recruitments during this period. The HSE Payroll System identifies that there have been 1,658 Hires/Rehires of Temporary employees between March & September where the reason used is 'COVID-19 Cover. This covers all grades of staff

*\*To highlight that this figure relates to HSE statutory sites only and does not include the HSE South West regions as the HR system not suitable to report on for such a request.*

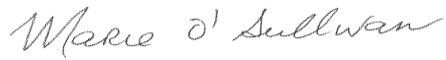
Of the 1,658 temporary hires identified – 34 are on the payroll but have not had their contracts updated. It can be assumed that this reflects an administration lag and that these contacts are in the process of being updated and the details added to the system.

The HSE is currently recruiting Community Swabbers. The roles will primarily be filled on a 12-month contract basis and the employer will be the HSE.

The employment arrangement of agency employed Contact Tracers will be reviewed at later date by Contact Tracing.

Workforce levels are published monthly and are available at: <https://hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

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**Marie O'Sullivan**  
National HR