



22nd April, 2021

Mr. Mick Barry T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 18385/21

PQ 18385/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of vaccinators that have been recruited for the Covid-19 vaccination programme; the number of those recruited that are still awaiting deployment; when those recruited will be commencing employment; the number that have undergone induction training; the number that have received their own vaccinations ahead of service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

A National Recruitment Campaign was launched on Thursday 18th February to source new Vaccinators from outside the health services for the national roll-out of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. This national campaign has been well received to-date and primarily focuses on the supply of services to vaccination clinics.

As of 16th April, 3,550 applicants were deemed eligible through the Cpl channel and, of those eligible, 1,155 candidates had confirmed start dates with approximately 945 candidates matched to vaccination clinics. This figure will further increase over the next number of weeks as candidates complete their vaccine specific training, obtain recruitment clearances and confirm start dates. Centralised Vaccination Clinics are also being supported through existing vaccination teams or via agencies or local recruitment. Regional leads for vaccination clinics are also engaging with Local Authorities to access staff and other support through state bodies in line with the mandate from the Department of the Taoiseach. Roles include Administration, IT Support and general support.

Feedback from each of the 38 Centralised Vaccination Centres to-date indicates each has sufficient Vaccinator WTE availability based on our current information on vaccine delivery. For example, on week commencing 19th April, there was a vaccinator requirement of 357 WTEs across all vaccination clinics with approximately 748 WTEs vaccinators in place at that date.

In terms of Vaccinator training, 1,877 candidates have completed the required profession specific training as of 16th April. The HSE through the National Immunisation Office (NIO) and the ONMSD provides specialist training per discipline for staff who work as vaccinators. Vaccine specific training is available for all disciplines on HSELand and the uptake has been very positive to-date. The practical (face-to-face) clinical training is delivered by internal HSE trainers where possible e.g. CNMEs and NIO, but external providers such as Hibernian Healthcare are utilised where the local training provider cannot be used. The online components are mainly delivered on HSELand, with



some other online platforms used as appropriate. The CoVax ICT training is delivered by IT system provider.

All candidates who are appointed as Vaccinators are offered the vaccine prior to commencing in the role. As you are aware, however, vaccination cannot be mandated and all of the 38 Centralised Vaccination Clinics have appropriate levels of PPE and infection control procedures in place as a matter of course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Frances McNamara
Assistant National Director,
Office of the Chief Operations Officer