



**20<sup>th</sup> April, 2021**

Mr. Alan Kelly T.D.  
Dáil Eireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 18531/21**

PQ 18531/21– “To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical students who have been hired as Covid-19 vaccinators up until 31 March 2021; 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.

No medical students have been hired as COVID-19 vaccinators up until 31st March 2021. The Statutory Instruments (SI No 698 of 2020 and SI No. 81 of 2021) lists the cohort of health care professionals who can legally administer the vaccine with the required specific training, namely:

- Medical practitioners
- A registered nurse (including a registered midwife)
- A registered pharmacist
- An advanced paramedic
- A paramedic
- An emergency medical technician
- A physiotherapist registered in the register of the Physiotherapists Registration Board
- A registered optometrist
- A registered dentist.

The HSE can only recruit vaccinators from those Department of Health disciplines approved above. The HSE will widen the recruitment pool to include any additional professionals agreed by the Department of Health to legally administer the vaccine with the required specific training.

Yours sincerely,

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