



28th April, 2021

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

Re: PQ 18532/21

PQ 18532/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of retired persons 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.

The 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 vaccinators to vaccination clinics. As of 31st March 2021, five retired persons were rehired as Vaccinators through the National Recruitment Campaign. Since then, an additional 65 applicants have had contracts issued for future starts as Vaccinators with an additional 405 applicants in compliance and/or the clearance stages of the Cpl recruitment process as of 23rd April 2021.

In line with government guidance, Very High Risk or ‘Vulnerable’ Healthcare Workers should not be at work. See ‘Guidance on cocooning to protect people over 70 years and those extremely medically vulnerable from COVID-19’ <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/people-at-higher-risk.html>. However, as of 22nd March 2021, a recommendation was made by the Chief Clinical Officer Dr Colm Henry that Healthcare Workers in the over 70s age group can return to work on completion of their vaccine. This means that Healthcare Workers aged 70 and over, with no medical condition that places them at high risk of severe COVID-19 can return to work two weeks after the second dose of their mRNA vaccine schedule. This is subject to an assessment by Occupational Health.

Yours sincerely,

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