



04th March, 2021

Deputy Dara Calleary
Kildare Street
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 8627/21

PQ 8627/21– “To ask the Minister for Health if he will engage with a group (details supplied) regarding the Covid-19 vaccine plan; his views on the skills, assets and local presence the group can bring to the roll-out of the vaccine; and if he will make a statement on the matter..”

Received on 01/03/2021: DOH: WE HAVE CLARIFIED WITH THE DEPUTIES OFFICE THAT HE IS REFERRING TO ST JOHNS AMBULANCE, THE ORDER OF MALTA AND THE RED CROSS WHEN HE SAYS VOLUNTARY GROUPS.

Dear Deputy Calleary,

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 Health Service Executive has engaged with representatives from the Irish Red Cross, Order of Malta Ireland and St John Ambulance Ireland to discuss how the three Voluntary Emergency Services (VES) can assist in the rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Following consultation, it was agreed that VES practitioners could best contribute by supplementing vaccination centre resources with additional vaccinators on a part time basis (i.e. certain days, evenings and weekends). To this end the contact details of regional vaccination leads were shared.

A National 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 will primarily focus on the supply of services to vaccination clinics. The recruitment link is as follows: <https://hbsrecruitmentservices.ie/vaccinators/> and has been shared with the VES to circulate to their members.

In addition, emergency management structures and associated processes are in place for civil defence requests and are channelled through the regional Chief Emergency Management Officer and managed locally as agreed with the Local Authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Frances McNamara
Assistant National Director,



Office of the Chief Operations Officer