

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Deputy Peadar Toibin  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie)

**Re: PQ3317/21 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the Be on Call for Ireland campaign; the number of persons that signed up; the location in which that database is stored; and the number of persons who signed up that have been offered posts in the health service. – Peadar Tóibín.**

Dear Deputy Toibin,

Many thanks for your parliamentary question received in relation to the Be on Call for Ireland campaign.

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” initiative was launched on St Patrick’s Day. The main priority of this project was to provide “job ready” health care professionals to the health services in the event of the anticipated increase in hospital beds and community service staffing requirements.

A large number of applications were received and extensive online and telephone interviews took place to determine relevant candidates’ availability to work and to determine that candidates were suitably qualified or experienced. The number of candidates who indicated they were available to work and had the relevant experience needed by the services at that time was progressed to ‘job ready’.

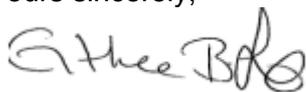
Posts were offered to ‘job ready’ candidates when requested by the management of the Community and Acute services. Candidates recruited through the BOCI were appointed on short term agency employment contracts.

As of 02-01-21 there are 680 “job ready” candidates from the Be on Call for Ireland initiative. 319 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 CPL group were engaged to manage both the online platform build for this project and manage the subsequent recruitment processes and related data on behalf of the HSE.

Should you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



**Eithne Fox**  
**Assistant National Director HBS HR**