

Date 5th February 2021

Deputy Marian Harkin
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: marian.harkin@oireachtas.ie

PQ 3677/21 To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to utilise the persons who signed up for the Be On Call for Ireland in the first wave of Covid-19 given the current health crisis as a result of the virus; the number who applied at that time and since; the number of those deployed under the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marian Harkin

Dear Deputy Harkin,

Many thanks for your query in relation to the 'Be on Call for Ireland' recruitment initiative.

The majority of COVID-19 related recruited is undertaken by the HSE National Recruitment Service-HBS Recruit and local recruitment offices in Acute and Community Services. To date approximately 8,756 additional staff have recruited through HBS Recruit in response to COVID-19 management and the provision of continuing health and social care services to the population of Ireland. 'Be on Call for Ireland' was a further recruitment stream to provide an additional pool of 'job ready' healthcare staff to meet the front line health service need as required.

From 17th March 2020 to date; 73,300 applicants have signed up to the 'Be on Call for Ireland' initiative. Approx. 27,000 of these applicants were identified as already working in healthcare. Further on line screening was undertaken to ascertain who was qualified, not already working in healthcare and available to work which reduced the number to 14,000 and it was this 14,000 that became the focus of the initiative to provide the additional resources to the HSE as needed.

As of 5th February 2021, 321 have been assigned from same and a further 680 'job ready' candidates have been processed through recruitment clearances i.e. Garda Vetting, Occupational Health and references checks and are ready to take up employment as and when required.

I hope this has provided you with the information you have requested and should you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Eithne Fox
Assistant National Director HBS HR