



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

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Fergus O'Dowd, T.D.

27th January, 2021

PQ44927/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who were subsequently placed in healthcare facilities and the category of work undertaken by successful applicants to the Be on Call for Ireland scheme to date; the number that applied; the number interviewed by the consultants; the cost of the scheme to date; the details of the procurement process including the successful company; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

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 14/01/2021 there are 758 "job ready" candidates from the Be on Call for Ireland initiative. 310 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.

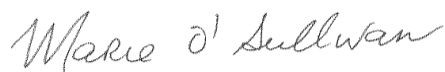
The 'Be on Call for Ireland' initiative was developed using existing HSE Procurement Frameworks. CPL have an existing framework agreement for other recruitment services with the HSE, and the requirement for this programme was immediate and therefore did not allow for a competitive tender applications process.

This temporary contract was entered into in line with Regulation 2014/24/EU Article 32(C).

The CPL group were engaged to manage both the online platform build for this project and manage the subsequent recruitment process.

This included validating the professional registration, telephone interviews, screening processes, compliance processes such as Garda Vetting and Occupational Health assessments and finally issuing of an agency contract.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie O'Sullivan".

Marie O'Sullivan
National HR