



18th March, 2021

Mr. Gary Gannon T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 12156/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of vaccinators and vaccine staff Ireland requires to meet vaccination goals; if applicants who meet the correct criteria for vaccinators roles and applied for the Be on Call for Ireland initiative will be contacted for the HSE Covid-19 vaccinator recruitment initiative; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to the Parliamentary Question above which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. The following outlines the position:

As part of the National roll out of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, there is at least one vaccination clinic in every county to support the vaccination of the general population in a safe and efficient manner. Each vaccination clinic varies in size and been initially selected based on population density, ease of access, public transport, parking and on-site facilities available. Vaccinations will also be administered locally via GP surgeries and community pharmacies.

Each Vaccination Centre will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team with different staff members having key roles and responsibilities to support the overall vaccination process. In addition to vaccinators, the team will include pharmacy, administration, ICT and support staff to support the delivery of a high-quality efficient and safe vaccination service. Each vaccination centre will operate to the highest quality standards in alignment with standardised operating guidelines. A detailed workforce planning exercise was undertaken, based on the expected number of vaccination booths provided per location, and it is anticipated that up to 2,600 WTEs will be required to operate the vaccination centres

The national recruitment campaign for the COVID-19 vaccination programme is currently underway and making every effort not to put at risk existing health service provision, specifically our response to COVID-19 surge, our ability to maintain our service continuity programme, the delivery of the commitments in our National Service Plan and Winter Plan and specifically not target existing healthcare staff in public or private healthcare. This national campaign, which is run by Cpl Healthcare, primarily focuses on the supply of services to vaccination clinics. The recruitment link is as follows: <https://hbsrecruitmentservices.ie/vaccinators/>.

In addition and to support the recruitment of staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, relevant groups on HSE recruitment databases and the Be on Call database are notified of appropriate recruitment campaigns to alert them to the campaigns advertised on www.hse.ie. With regards to the Vaccinator campaign, the relevant disciplines on the Be on Call for Ireland database have already been notified of the advertised Vaccinator recruitment campaign and how to apply. If the applicants are one of the listed disciplines who can carry out the Vaccinator role, they are encouraged to apply.

Be on Call applicants who are interested in Vaccinator jobs will need to make a new application due



to the specific requirements of the new national recruitment campaign for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Information provided in early 2020 will now be out of date from a compliance perspective - for example, any Garda vetting will now have expired and a new vetting application needs to be made for the specific role of Vaccinator, information on live professional registration status is needed, references need to be reflective of any recent work, an Occupational Health assessment needs to be carried out in relation to the Vaccinator role etc.

We appreciate that applicants may have already engaged with the recruitment process for COVID-19 related roles, however safe recruitment processes require that we have the most up to date information that is relevant to the specific role of Vaccinator.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances McNamara', written over a light blue horizontal line.

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