



15th March, 2021

Mr Cormac Devlin, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 12971/21

PQ 12971/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health if he will include dentists and hygienists in the Be on Call for Ireland initiative given they deal with medical emergencies and have the required training to deal with such emergencies including adrenaline for anaphylaxis; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Statutory Instruments (SI No 698 of 2020 and SI No. 81 of 2021) lists the cohort of health care professionals who can legally administer the vaccine with the required specific training, namely:

- Medical practitioners
- A registered nurse (including a registered midwife)
- A registered pharmacist
- An advanced paramedic
- A paramedic
- An emergency medical technician
- A physiotherapist registered in the register of the Physiotherapists Registration Board
- A registered optometrist
- A registered dentist.

The HSE can only recruit vaccinators from those Department of Health disciplines approved above. Registered dentists with the appropriate training can legally administer vaccines, but dental hygienists are not permitted under the current Statutory Instrument.

Yours sincerely,

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