



6th April, 2021

Mr. Neale Richmond T.D.
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 16717/21

PQ ref 16716/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health if he plans to recognise pre-existing qualifications of vaccine administration from the HSE for staff applying to work in vaccine centres; 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.

Regardless of pre-existing qualifications, all vaccinators for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme are required, under the Statutory Instruments (SI 698/2020 and SI 81/2021) to undergo additional COVID -19 education, as well as vaccine specific training. All pre-existing vaccine administration qualifications are acknowledged when the candidate provides the appropriate evidence of the necessary training and certification to the recruiter (i.e. Cpl Healthcare). The process is outlined as follows; after a candidate applies to the national COVID-19 vaccinator recruitment campaign, contact is made to assess the candidate’s current training status on the defined training courses. For candidates who declare that they do not require some or all of the training programme, the candidate provides the appropriate evidence of the necessary training and certification to the recruiter. If training is required, candidates are given information on how to access any training required via HSEland and any additional profession specific or face to face training that may be required. The HSE through the National Immunisation Office (NIO) and the ONMSD provides specialist training per discipline for staff who work as vaccinators. In addition, a training programme is developed and is being delivered for new Vaccinators (physiotherapists, dentists and optometrists). Vaccine specific training is available for all disciplines on HSEland and the uptake has been very positive to-date.



If you require any further information or clarification regarding training requirements, please contact training.VAX@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

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

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