

Action 6: Expanding & Protecting our health workforce and essential workers

The Health Sector Workforce Subgroup is working to deliver on **Action 6, of Irelands National Action Plan in response to COVID-19**. The group is working to ensure that the Health Sector Workforce is supported to meet the increase in demand associated with the response. To date this group has had eight full member meetings and regular HSE teleconferences.

HSE Workforce Expansion in response to COVID 19

On 10th June, HSE provided an update on recruitment activity at a point in time. Below is a summary table of the information provided. The numbers change daily and in some cases are indicative as HR systems across the service are not compatible and it can take weeks for confirmed numbers. Data continues to be validated.

Table 1 HSE Recruitment at a point in time, as at 10th June 2020

Category	Total	Comment
National Recruitment	1,524	
Temporary Assignment Scheme -Staff from across civil and public service reassigned		
- <i>Staff in redeployed role</i>	62	In place
- <i>Staff due to be redeployed</i>	394	Not yet in place
- <i>Total number that is expected to be required</i>	417	
Be on Call for Ireland		
<i>Successful at interview</i>	1,943	
<i>In clearance</i>	1,138	
<i>Completed clearance and job ready</i>	805	
<i>Awaiting assignment</i>	168	
<i>Awaiting service acceptance</i>	757	
Candidates placed	158	
Student Nurses & Midwives		
- <i>Community</i>	515	
- <i>Acutes</i>	732	
Other		
Medical Scientists (final year students)	80	Hired for clinical laboratory departments
Rehired retirees	98	
Interns	926	

Training update on 10th June

Since 23rd March 2020, there have been 26,898 new registrations to the HSE e-learning platform. There have been 152,055 completions of COVID related courses, with 8,402 completions having taken place in the seven days preceding 10th June 2020.

Return to work protocol

The HSE expect to have a conference call on Thursday afternoon with the worker representatives covering the Guideline documents circulated to support HSE Site/Service Mangers in developing their COVID-19 Response Plan. These documents include policies and practices necessary to meet the Government's 'Return to Work Safety Protocol'.

The unions have been advised that the HSE are still working on guidance documents on responding to suspected case of COVID-19 in the workplace, and updated guidance on site specific safety statements. These will issue in due course.

Industrial Relations

WRC Claims - the trade unions have advised that they have submitted claims to the WRC on matters that, in their view, remain unresolved in relation to: Grade VIII claims; COVID-19 special leave and claim for premium payments; claims arising from childcare arrangements during the period. The HSE indicated that these are scheduled to begin adjudication at the WRC.

Childcare - Engagement between DYCA and Unions on childcare arrangements from June 29th shall take place next week, which aims to update the union side on the lead up to June 29th.

HCW Infection Rate Data - Arrangements are being made to circulate updated data on a weekly basis by the HSE / HSPC to the union side and should commence shortly.

Progress report on Action 6

This subgroup is preparing a report on the progress made against Action 6 of the National Action Plan.