



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
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Brid Smith T.D.

**PQ5253/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech therapists and occupational therapists in the HSE who are redeployed to contact tracing or other Covid-19-related posts; the details of all other HSE staff redeployed from their usual post for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Brid Smith**

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question as 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 in anticipation of an unprecedented demand as a result of the global pandemic COVID-19. Redeployment across the health service and public service was part of the response. Health Services staff working in Hospital Groups (HGs) and Community Health Organisations (CHOs) were redeployed within their CHO and HGs. Staff were redeployed from Corporate HSE offices and from the Civil Service to support the pandemic effort.

In order to support the COVID crisis the HSE supplemented its workforce through redeployment across the public and civil service by increasing hours of part time staff and rehiring some retired clinicians.

The HSE workforce has been utilised in an agile manner to support redeployment as required across services based on the skills and competencies required at the time. Central records as per the requests are not currently available, however, the HSE is currently reviewing the staffing strategies that were utilised to support the pandemic effort. Central to this review is a Workforce Planning Exercise underway that will that will align with the HSEs strategic and operational plans for the coming weeks, months and years; identify the level of redeployment, the needs of services and the staffing levels required.

Yours sincerely,

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**Marie O Sullivan**  
**National HR**