

**FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**



Brandon Lewis, MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
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Your Ref:

Our Ref SUB-0020-2021

Date: 8 January 2021

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Dear Brandon

**COVID-19 Workforce Pressures – Mutual Aid**

Your officials have requested information with regards to exploring the possibility of providing some additional workforce to help Northern Ireland's health and social care system manage the extreme pressures during this next stage of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The total ask that we have been able to quantify so far amounts to 191 nursing staff (band 5/6); 8 ICU consultants; 16 airway doctors; 32 other doctors.

More generally Northern Ireland would benefit from registered nursing staff who have skills in the following areas: critical care, respiratory medicine; mental health and independent sector. Likewise, as the vaccination programme rolls out it is likely that staff available to vaccinate will become the constraining factor and the vaccination programme would benefit from any support that may be available.

I look forward to your response and as ever I'm happy to discuss.

I have copied this letter to the Rt Hon Matt Hancock, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Yours sincerely

**Personal Data**

**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister of Health**

Working for a Healthier People



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