



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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HSE HR Circular 17/2008

**To: Each Assistant National Director, HSE
Each Hospital Network Manager and Local Health Office Manager, HSE**

17th June 2008

Deployment with the Rapid Response Corps (RRC)

As you will be aware, the HSE operates a scheme of Special Leave with Nominal Pay under which employees with professional qualifications are entitled to apply for special leave to work with a recognised agency in any of the following:

- a recognised underdeveloped country
- a disaster/emergency region; and
- a developing country where the public health service is underdeveloped.

(Full details of the scheme can be found in the HSE Terms and Conditions of Employment, p36)

A new volunteer Rapid Response Corps was established by the Department of Foreign Affairs in February 2007. The Rapid Response Corps is a roster of skilled and experienced volunteers available at short notice and for periods of at least 3 months to deploy to humanitarian emergencies anywhere in the world. When they deploy, individual Corps members will join the response teams of some of key humanitarian partners, thus providing skills essential to the success of their emergency operations.

To date there have been eleven deployments of Corps members to humanitarian emergencies in places like Sudan, Sri Lanka, Mozambique and Kenya.

The HSE is supportive of staff who are interested in joining the Rapid Response Corps. A small number of HSE employees are currently members of the Corps and further information relating to the RRC can be obtained on www.irishaid.gov.ie or email rri@dfa.ie or telephone 061 774048.

The Department of Finance has approved the release of Public Servants their work for deployments of up to 3 months while retaining their salary and benefits. Staff may be released for a maximum of 3 months on full pay. These payments will be fully reimbursed to the HSE from the Rapid Response Initiative budget, Department of Foreign Affairs, as an element of overseas development aid.

Staff may be released for a maximum of 3 months on full pay.

In the event of any such case arising, arrangements are to be made directly between the Area HR Office and the Department of Foreign Affairs (as represented by Irish Aid, Dept. of Foreign Affairs, 106 O'Connell St., Limerick, 061 774 051).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sean McGrath', written over a horizontal line.

Sean McGrath
National Director of Human Resources

c.c. HSE National Management Team