



14th December 2020

Deputy Cormac Devlin,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 39833/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of primary care psychologists and primary care staff seconded to testing and tracing as a result of Covid-19; when these clinicians will resume their role; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Cormac Devlin

Dear Deputy Devlin

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The table below represents the total number of Psychologists and Primary Care Staff who were reassigned to support Covid-19 testing and tracing nationally, these figures are based on the latest census of re-deployment which took place at the end of November. It is planned that as Covid specific staff are recruited there will be a return of staff back to core duties.

| Staff Type | Contact Tracing | Testing |
|--|-----------------|---------|
| Number of Psychologists | 1 | 10 |
| Number of Occupational Therapists | 3 | 30 |
| Number of Audiologists | 0 | 2 |
| Number of Dieticians | 0 | 8 |
| Number of Physiotherapists | 2 | 21 |
| Number of Podiatrists | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Speech and Language Therapists | 1 | 96 |

The key document in terms of returning staff to their substantive posts is titled "Service Continuity in a Covid Environment. A Strategic Framework for Delivery".

This framework document was prepared in June 2020 and provides the framework for staff to return to their substantive posts from Covid related work.

A link to the document is provided below:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/service-continuity-in-a-covid-environment-a-strategic-framework-for-delivery1.pdf>

Implementing the road map for staff to return to their substantive posts is a priority for Community Services that is being balanced with the dynamic and fluid requirements for community testing and tracing.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maurice Farnan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Maurice Farnan
A/A.N.D. Community Operations