



17th December 2020

PQ 40846/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the alleged redeployment of speech and language therapists by the HSE for Covid-19 testing.

- Michael Creed

Dear Deputy Creed,

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 Speech and Language Therapists who were reassigned to support Covid-19 testing, 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	Testing
Number of Speech and Language Therapists	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,

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

