



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Contact Management Programme
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Deputy David Cullinane
Dail Eireinn
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Question 41208/20: To ask the Minister for Health the targets to year-end for the dedicated contact tracing workforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred to the HSE for direct response

The HSE developed an operating model for the national Test and Trace Function during the summer. This model deals with all aspects from a GP referral through to completion of contact tracing. This model plans for the HSE to have standing capacity of 800 contact tracers, deployed to contact tracing centres around the country.

The recruitment campaign for these 800 staff commenced week of the 7th of September, and has proceeded with approximately 70 tracers per week being recruited since early October. By the 6th of December there will be 691 contact tracers on-board. In addition there is 23 staff from the Revenue Commissioners still working with the HSE on contact tracing; there is 42 HSE staff who are unable to attend work due to underlying health conditions who are working on contact tracing; and there are another 20 HSE staff who have been deployed to contact tracing. That gives the HSE a contact tracing workforce of approximately 770 people. Please note that the figures quoted are dynamic as there is the usual level of turnover associated with large scale recruitment.

The recruitment process will continue to the target of 800 contact tracers, and the other staff who currently is involved will be in addition to the newly recruited workforce.

Yours sincerely

Kilian McGrane
Contact Management Programme