

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2020**

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 17900/20**

**Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the details of the capacity for testing and tracing for Covid-19; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to your above question.

Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would've liked to respond.

I wish to advise that since May, we have the capacity to conduct over 100,000 tests per week across our swabbing, laboratory and contact tracing infrastructure, the “end-to-end” process, as part of our roadmap of improvements on the testing and contact tracing process for Covid-19.

We have 27 Community Testing Centres around the country and resources can be scaled up or down dependent on demand as this can vary significantly from week to week. There were 3,412 tests carried out in Community Test Centres on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August. To date we have conducted approx. 740,000 coronavirus tests.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
**National Lead for Testing and Tracing**