

16th November 2020

Deputy Patrick Costello
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 32765/20

Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the number of close contacts contacted via the Covid-19 tracker application since it was launched by month; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Costello,

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.

The Covid Tracker App was launched in July 2020 as a response to the Covid Pandemic. The App has three functions:

1. Provide news, information and updates on Covid
2. Provide a facility to check in your symptoms on a daily basis
3. Provide a contact tracing function, utilising the Apple/Google exposure notification service and linking to our Covid Care Tracker solution which is the system that supports the contact tracing team.

The App has been continually upgraded to provide additional functionality and updates for example multi language options and the ability to pause tracing for health care staff who are wearing PPE.


Since the Covid Tracker App was launched it has recorded the following contacts:

Month	Close Contacts Alerted
July	157
August	724
September	2372
October	5482
November (to date)	736
Total	9471

The App is installed on approximately 1.3 million mobile devices and about 200,000 people utilise the check in functionality on a daily basis.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing