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20th November 2020

Deputy Bríd Smith,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 33360/20- To ask the Minister for Health if any HSE staff currently working on contract tracing have been redeployed from other services specifically those involving speech and language assessments for children, occupational therapists services and NEPS psychologists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Bríd Smith,

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

Please see outlined the table below the number of Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists who are redeployed to support Contact Tracing services as of 18th September 2020.

Staff Type	Contact Tracing
Speech and Language Therapists	16
Occupational Therapists	8

Please note that the HSE does not retain data associated with NEPS (National Educational Psychological Services) Psychologists as they are funded directly by Department of Education.

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>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Farnan.

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