



17th December 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 34489/20 Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the value and nature of the contracts awarded to four companies (PWC, EY, Vision and Microsoft) in respect of the Covid-19 testing and tracing system; the procurement process used; and the controls in place to ensure value for money”.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 HSE has utilised a number of companies to support our response to the Covid-19 pandemic including the four companies cited in the above question. In order to act with the pace necessary to meet the unprecedented and global supply challenges, due to the extreme urgency arising from the pandemic, it was necessary for the HSE to enter into agreements with a wide variety of suppliers for services without a formal tender process employing the exemptions available under Regulation 2014/24/EU and the Public Procurement Guidance provided by the EU Commission on the Covid-19 Crisis (2020/c108/01).

The services provided fall into a number of categories as outlined below:

- Operations personnel to establish new operational systems for testing and tracing
- Consulting services for specific pieces of work
- Technology services to provide technology solutions

Each service provider has an agreement for services provided which are agreed each month and approved by HSE management on a monthly basis. They are also considered as part of our ongoing monitoring of the costs associated with the Testing and Tracing system each month.

The HSE has been recruiting operations personnel as appropriate, which has reduced some of the reliance on external suppliers. This has been balanced with the reality that in some cases it is necessary to utilise external personnel with specific skill sets for defined periods of time and hence longer term cost exposure. It is hoped that the scale of the Testing and Tracing function can reduce



as the vaccine and other measures take affect over the coming years and therefore have included a strategy to be in position to reduce some of the costs involved at short notice if required.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne

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National Lead Testing and Tracing