



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
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23rd November 2020,

Deputy Pearse Doherty,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question PQ ref 36044/20: *"To ask the Minister for Health the number of speech and language therapists redeployed to Covid-19 testing in County Donegal per month to date in 2020; the number of those that resumed their roles in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."*

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, which you submitted to the Chief Officer, CHO 1 for response.

I have examined the matter, and the following outlines for position.

The HSE is in the process of recruiting hundreds of new staff as community testers and contact tracers, with a focus on ensuring that clinical staff who were previously redeployed revert to their areas of discipline.

In Co Donegal, a total of 12 Speech and Language Therapists were redeployed during the COVID pandemic.

Date	Total
Weekending, 14 th November 2020	9
Weekending, 28 th November 2020	3

The remaining three S&L therapists have been asked to remain on the community swabbing rota for an additional two weeks to mentor and support the new staff coming on board. These three staff will complete a maximum of two shifts per week in the test centre and three days in their substantive posts. It is hoped that they will be fully released to return to their substantive posts by 1st December 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Monaghan,
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