



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

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

☎: +353 (0)47-30449
Email: dermot.monaghan@hse.ie

23rd of November 2020

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

Re: Parliamentary Question PQ ref 36045/20: *"To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recruit Covid-19 testers in County Donegal to allow speech and language therapists to resume their positions in their qualified field; when it may be expected this will occur; 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.

Currently there are 13 community swabbing staff recruited, trained and now on the rota full time. An additional 3 community swabbing staff started in their posts last week and we hope to be up to our full complement of staff in Co Donegal later this week or early next week.

As of 14th November 2020, 9 of the 12 Speech and Language Therapists have returned to their substantive posts in Donegal. The remaining 3 Speech and Language Therapists have been asked to remain on the community swabbing rota, in a part time capacity, for an additional two weeks to mentor and support the new staff coming on board. These staff will complete a maximum of two shifts per week in the test centre and three days in their substantive posts. We plan 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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