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1st December 2020

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

PQ 36289/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if workers hired at the Clonskeagh testing centre during the Call for Ireland campaign are now being let go; the number of persons hired that are being laid off both in Clonskeagh and elsewhere; the reason these worker's contracts were not renewed; the details of their replacements; the status of their contracts including duration; if these will be permanent; if they will have access to sick schemes akin to other HSE workers; 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.

Currently, workers hired at the Clonskeagh Testing Centre during the Call for Ireland campaign are not being let go, they are continuing to be employed through the CPL agency on a week by week basis as per their contractual agreement. As a result, the number of persons hired being laid off is zero.

These worker's contracts are continuing on a week by week basis, which was and continues to be the basis of the contractual agreement staff entered into. These workers have not been replaced – hours have been reduced as a result of a National open competition that was held for the post of community Swabbers across all CHO's – this competition was open to workers hired via the Call for Ireland Campaign. A panel was formed and staff are being employed directly by the HSE on a 1-year temporary basis. The newly hired temporary community swabbers have access to pro-rata of the sick leave scheme based on the temporary contract issued.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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