



8th December 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 38776/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of psychologists that have been reassigned to the Covid-19 testing and tracing response by CHO in tabular form; the impact this has had in respect of waiting lists; the timeline his Department is working towards to return all redeployed HSE staff to their original posts; and if he will make a statement on the matter

- Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

The table below represents the total number of Psychologists who were reassigned to support Covid-19 testing and tracing nationally, these figures are based on the latest census of re-deployment which took place at the end of November. It is planned that as Covid specific staff are recruited there will be a return of staff back to core duties.

Staff Type	Contact Tracing	Testing
Number of Psychologists	1	10

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>

Implementing the road map for staff to return to their substantive posts is a priority for Community Services that is being balanced with the dynamic and fluid requirements for community testing and tracing.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Farnan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

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