

Date 08<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy Sorca Clarke  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Email: sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie

**PQ2771020 To ask the Minister for Health the timeline for recruiting persons to perform swabbing duties in testing centres**

Dear Deputy Clarke

Many thanks for your parliamentary question in relation to the timeline for the recruitment of Community Swabbers.

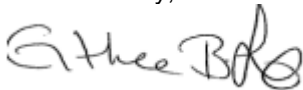
Community Swabbers are currently in position in Testing Centres. Due to the upsurge in COVID 19 and the need for temporarily re-assigned HSE staff to return to their service roles, the HSE is tasked with the immediate recruitment of additional Community Swabbers. To this end a national recruitment campaign for Community Swabbers was advertised on 7th September 2020.

The key dates for this recruitment campaign are:

07-09-20	Community Swabber campaign advertised.
14-09-20	Community Swabber campaign closed.
14-09-20	Eligibility sift & short listing commenced to ensure applicants meet the eligibility criteria. Short listing process took place to assess the applicants so as to interview those with the most relevant experience in the first cohorts of interviews.
21-09-20	Interviews commenced and are ongoing until all relevant short listed candidates are interviewed.
21-09-20	Recruitment clearances commenced on the candidates who have passed the interviews. Clearances are ongoing as more candidates pass interviews.
08-10-20	First cohort of recruited Community Swabbers commenced in test centres with ongoing appointments of further candidates on a weekly basis.

I hope this has provided you with an overview of the timeline for the recruitment of Community Swabber.and if you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



**Eithne Fox**  
**Assistant National Director HBS HR**