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27th October 2020

Deputy Sherlock,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 29072/20 To ask the Minister for Health when contracts will issue to persons (details supplied); and when they will be remunerated.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

As you are aware the HSE is implementing a Testing and Tracing system to manage the impact of the Covid-19 virus. In this regard, the HSE working with CPL is currently in the process of expanding significantly its contact tracing resources.

There was a spike in confirmed cases of Covid-19 in early August, which meant that the HSE had to implement a number of phases of its implementation plan simultaneously. Our colleagues in UCD agreed to stand up their contact tracing centre, and the HSE confirmed that those tracers who wished to be employed, would be paid from the date they re-commenced contact tracing – the 9th of August.

The CPL recruitment process for contact tracers began in September, and details of the online application portal were provided to colleagues in UCD on the 10th of September. Over 1,200 applications were received from around the country and the recruitment agency commenced interviewing with immediate effect.

Active contact tracers based in UCD, at the request of the HSE, were fast tracked through the recruitment process and were sent forward for Garda vetting at the end of September. Contracts of employment have been issued to all UCD based personnel who wished to be employed as contact tracers with arrears due having been paid based on information received to date by CPL from UCD.

The HSE is very grateful to all those who have supported the contact tracing process in UCD from March to June, and again since August, and we also appreciate them staying with the process while the recruitment was underway.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme