



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig Niamh O'Beirne, Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Tástála agus Rianaithe  
Ospidéal an Dr. Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8

Office of Niamh O' Beirne, National Lead for Testing & Tracing  
Dr Steevens' Hospital, Steevens' Lane, Dublin D08 W2A8

2 November 2020

Deputy Denis Naughten  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 29124/20

**Question: "To ask the Minister for Health the number of therapists and the specialities of each that have been redeployed to contact tracing as of 30 September 2020 in each CHO and hospital group, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter".**

Dear Deputy Naughten,

I refer to my earlier response with regards the above PQ and wish to apologise that this was not clearly outlining redeployment to just contact tracing. Contact Tracing work takes place in our Contact Tracing Centres (Routine) and in Public Health Departments (Complex).

I wish to now clarify that in September 2020 a total of 118 staff from Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) were redeployed to Contact Tracing Centres and Public Health Departments for the purposes of contact tracing work. The 118 come from 4 staff categories - Medical & Dental (18); Nursing (24); and Health and Social Care Professionals (53), Admin (23).

There are currently eight contact tracing centres, working seven days per week and 12 hours per day. The recruitment campaign for contact tracers commenced on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. Around 2,500 applications have been received so far and over 800 people have been interviewed. To date 344 new staff have been on-boarded, with a further 80 staff expected to be on-boarded by the end of this week. We will continue bringing in 60-70 new staff to the service every week over the coming period. The staff have been recruited on 11 month contracts for 37 hours per week, unless they requested part time hours. Level 2 tracers, which are those without a clinical background, are recruited at Clerical Officer grade, and Level 1 Tracers, which are those with a clinical background or the requisite experience, are recruited at Assistant Staff Officer grade. All staff will be rostered five days over seven, and their 37 hours will be between 8am and 8pm. The HSE plans to recruit up to 800 tracers, and then review the requirement for further recruitment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
National Lead for Testing and Tracing



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

Building a  
Better Health  
Service