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Donnchadh O' Laoghaire, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 30218/20**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the reason there is no Covid-19 testing centre on the southside of Cork city in view of its large population and level three restrictions; and his plans to set up a testing centre in this area."**

Dear Deputy O' Laoghaire,

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.

With the emergence of Covid 19 in Ireland in March 2020, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare set up a number of temporary Covid testing site centres as part of the immediate response to dealing with Covid 19 in our communities. As the need for testing continued it became obvious that more permanent locations were required to ensure that the provision of this service could continue in a safe manner through the winter months.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare established two testing locations in Cork (Cork City and West Cork). The situation was monitored on an ongoing basis and, due to a substantial and consistent increase in demand for testing, an additional site has been established in Cork. This site will support the main Cork City testing site in dealing with increased demand for referrals for testing for people living in Cork City and its environs. It is not expected that this testing site will be required to be operational 7 days per week. This testing centre will be used to maintain the response time of same day or next day appointment for testing in Cork city.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Teresa O' Donovan**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**