



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

30th October 2020

PQ 26646/20

To ask the Minister for Health the logistics provider whose contract has been extended to include Covid-19 testing; the address of the company; the testing services the company has been contracted to provide; the identity of the contracting party; the duration of the contract; the amount expended to date on the contract; the estimated amount to be spent on same; and the indemnity arrangements that have been made in this regard.

- Bríd Smith.

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question.

As part of the initial pandemic response the HSE relied heavily on a combination of the community, voluntary and private sector for the transportation of Covid-19 tests from our testing centre to the laboratories. There was a superb response from the community and voluntary sector alongside our own HSE staff and a number of private providers to support this part of the testing and tracing process.

It quickly became obvious that this was not sustainable, as a result of the increased requirement in frequency of collection and strengthening of protocols regarding the handling and transportation of samples. As a result the HSE had to quickly put in place arrangements that would provide a flexible responsive logistical solution so that we could achieve the best testing turnaround times. Frequency and stability of sample collection and delivery is a key part of ensuring we meet the targets for laboratory testing.

Following a rapid internal assessment of the marketplace, Eurofins Lablink, as an existing laboratory logistical service provider, were chosen to put in place the COVID laboratory logistics service.

Contract Type	Company	Expenditure to end September
Test transportation	Eurofins Lablink	€798,000

Expected logistics cost is highly dependent on weekly testing volumes, which have increased materially week on week in recent months. We continue to monitor the expected volumes and adjust our financial projections accordingly.

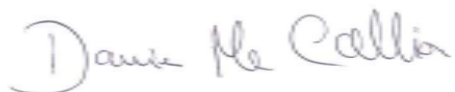
There are no specific indemnity arrangements required for the service.

Eurofins also provide COVID-19 testing services. We secured access to COVID-19 testing with Eurofins early on in the pandemic response. A contract was put in place when there were significant capacity challenges to source COVID-19 testing. The contract currently runs until 30th April 2021.

Release of volumes or pricing information would weaken the HSE's position in regard to the ongoing negotiations we are having with our laboratories and suppliers. Declaring commercial rates or presenting information in such a way that commercial rates can be extrapolated has the potential to undermine our ability to secure future capacity. It would also place the HSE in breach of the confidentiality obligations in our contracts but this would be secondary at present to our ongoing supply challenges.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Damien McCallion". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Damien McCallion
National Director, HSE