

2nd October 2020

Deputy Michael Fitzmaurice
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 22682/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests being carried out on a daily basis by county in the weeks ending 23 and 30 August 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Fitzmaurice,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

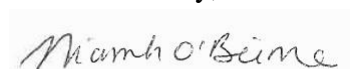
I wish to apologise for the delay in issuing a response to your above question.

Due to the current demands of the Covid-19 pandemic and the numerous queries we have received to date it has taken longer than I would've liked to respond.

The attached Appendix illustrates the breakdown of the number of Covid-19 tests being carried out on a daily basis by county in the weeks ending 23 and 30 August 2020. I wish to advise that since May 2020, we have the capacity to conduct over 100,000 tests per week across our swabbing, laboratory and contact tracing infrastructure, the “end-to-end” process, as part of our roadmap of improvements on the testing and contact tracing process for Covid-19. Community testing is a key component of the national COVID-19 strategy making testing facilities available for people who experience symptoms of COVID-19 and / or have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing