

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**Re: PQ 243143/20**

**Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of cases of Covid-19 that have tested positive among workers in meat processing plants; and if contact tracing has been carried in all cases in tabular form”.**

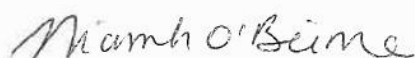
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The Serial Testing programme at meat and food Processing plants, commenced on 21<sup>st</sup> August. To date, there has been 22,360 tests carried out in this serial testing with 70 detected cases, this represents a detected rate of 0.31%. This is unrelated to outbreak testing, it is serial testing of asymptomatic staff.

Where an outbreak occurs in a Meat or Food Processing facility then outbreak mass testing will still occur. Public Health will be in touch locally in those situations. If a plant has confirmed cases there is a Public Health Assessment which determines what interventions are required and the subsequent frequency of testing. In all cases where an individual receives a detected result, the contact tracing process begins. As you can understand the HSE cannot comment on individual cases or individual facilities.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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