

27th September 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ23223/20: “To ask the Minister for Health the staff currently assigned or redeployed to Covid-19 testing and tracing work on the basis of their original discipline or area of work within the health service and from other Departments or agencies; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

I refer to the above parliamentary question, which has been referred to the HSE for direct reply.

The HSE currently has approximately 280 people deployed to contact tracing. There are eight contact tracing centres around the country are as follows:

1. HSE – Galway
2. HSE – Cork
3. HSE – Kells
4. UCD
5. Revenue Commissioners – Limerick
6. Defence Forces – Cork
7. Defence Forces – Dublin
8. Defence Forces – Athlone

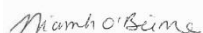
The redeployed staff are in the three HSE contact tracing centres. The largest number of redeployed staff are Environmental Health Officers, with approximately 80 people deployed to contact tracing. In addition there are approximately 25 Health and Social Care Professionals, and there are also HR staff and general management administrative staff who are redeployed.

The staff in the Revenue Commissioners and the Defence Forces have been made available to the HSE for the purposes of contact tracing. The staff in UCD were volunteers, but many have applied for contact tracing positions with the HSE.

The HSE is currently building standing capacity for testing and tracing, and is hiring 500 contact tracers as part of that capacity. The recruitment process is well underway and the first group of successful applicants should be available for training, week commencing 5th October. Once the new recruits are trained, and experienced in contact tracing, then redeployed staff will return to their substantive roles, and the staff who have been made available to the HSE will also return to their normal duties.”

I trust the above clarifies the queries you have raised.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing