

29th September 2020

Deputy Alan Kelly
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 25323/20: To ask the Minister for Health the mechanisms that are in place to ensure Covid-19 testing undertaken at private hospitals is shared with the HSE in order that contact tracing can be performed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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

There are a number of private hospitals undertaking COVID testing in order to support provision of hospital services. The only valid diagnostic test for COVID at this point in time is a PCR test.

Each private hospital which undertakes COVID testing is obliged under the infectious disease legislation to provide any positive results to the HSE so that contact tracing can be performed. These results are provided to public health departments who then enter these cases on to the contract tracing system. They are then treated the same as any other positive case.

I trust the above clarifies the queries you have raised.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead for Testing and Tracing