



19th October 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26320/20 - "To ask the Minister for Health the way in which he plans to leverage the clinical and operational expertise embedded in community services for the new test and trace services; if it will mean further redeployment of therapists and other HSCPs; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Louise O'Reilly"

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The HSE Covid-19 Community Testing Service is committed to the timely provision of safe, accessible, quality swabbing services within the community setting. As with all HSE services, clinical and operational expertise has been utilised from Covid-19 testing service conception to realisation. In order to respond to the pandemic it was necessary utilise existing staff including clinicians, through redeployment.

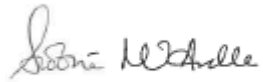
In September 2020 a total of **866** staff from CHOs were redeployed to Covid Testing with the breakdown as follows:

- 80% of redeployments (690) are for 3 staff categories (Medical and Dental; Nursing; Health and Social Care Professionals- the latter group are the therapy grades)
- A total of 430 Health and Social Care Professionals are deployed to testing (50% of deployments to testing)
- A total of 228 nursing staff are deployed to testing (26% of deployments to testing)
- A total of 32 Medical and Dental Staff are deployed to testing (4% of deployments to testing)

The HSE has recently commenced a recruitment campaign for staff to support community testing facilities for Covid-19. The recruitment of Community Swabbing staff will support the return of clinical staff to their substantive roles. The ongoing management of the test and trace system will continue to be supported both clinically and operationally in order to ensure continued service quality and imbed service improvement initiatives.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations