



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte

Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'

Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Director of Human Resources

Health Service Executive

Dr. Steevens' Hospital

Dublin 8

Tel: 01 6352319 Email: nationalhr@hse.ie

David Cullinane, T.D.

14th October 2020

PQ 27489/20: To ask the Minister for Health the reason some community testers and contact tracers and those offered jobs through Be on Call for Ireland and other recruitment pathways to join the health service are only being offered temporary employment through agencies and are not being employed directly by the HSE or his Department; if this is congruent with the objective of employing a dedicated testing and tracing workforce; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary questions above which were sent to the HSE for reply.

The HSE is currently recruiting Community Swabbers. The roles will primarily be filled on a 12-month contract basis and the employer will be the HSE.

To highlight that all health systems have a level of reliance on agency staffing in order to deliver safe and effective services over 365 days, 24 hours a day, when dealing with gaps in recruitment, critical staff shortages, short term crises etc

Due to the recent upsurge in COVID 19 and the need for temporarily re-assigned HSE staff to return to their service roles, the HSE is tasked with the immediate recruitment of Contact Tracers. In order to fill these roles as soon as possible, the HSE is working in partnership with a recruitment agency to expedite recruitment of Contact Tracers. Using a 3rd party supplier is a key enabler of responsive COVID-19 related recruitment so as to immediately increase recruitment capacity to fill COVID-19 related roles.

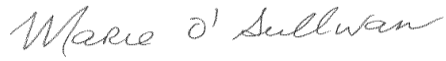
Contact Tracers are currently being employed as agency employees and are being offered 11 month contracts of employment. Candidates are offered full time contracts (37 hours), however some Level 1 Clinical Contact Tracers are requesting part time contracts and we aim to facilitate those requests due to the requirement for clinical expertise in these roles.

Contact Tracers employed by CPL are being given the standard annual leave given to HSE employees at Clerical Officer, Grade III (Level 2 Contact Tracers) and Assistant Staff Officer, Grade IV (Level 1 Contact Tracers) grades. As CPL employees they will not pay superannuation contributions. For work acquired COVID 19 sickness, CPL Contact Tracer appointees are entitled to the relevant social welfare payment; in addition they will be paid their contracted salary minus the social welfare benefit, as is the practice for any HSE employees.

The employment arrangement of agency employed Contact Tracers will be reviewed at later date by Contact Tracing.

Workforce levels are published monthly and are available at: <https://hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/>

Yours sincerely



Marie O'Sullivan
National HR