



11th May 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 18189/21 – “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to events at a residential care facility (details supplied) as reported in the media; the steps he has taken to address same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” - David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your recent correspondence. The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the current position.

The first date Covid-19 testing commenced at the SHS outbreak centres are detailed below along with the date the outbreak ended.

Each centre was tested weekly until their outbreak was declared over by Public Health.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) assisted with testing in all of the centres listed below. The HSE provided swabber training for nominated staff in SHS in order to build capacity and expertise on site.

	First Test Date	Outbreak End Date
Designated Centre 1	15/01/2021	24/02/2021
Designated Centre 2	15/01/2021	14/02/2021
Designated Centre 3	22/01/2021	05/02/2021
Designated Centre 4	23/01/2021	08/02/2021

The above centres were then part of 'targeted testing' on random dates, after their outbreak end date. This was as a once off, to ensure the centre was COVID free.

A number of anonymise complaints have been received through numerous sources, some of the themes are reflective of the issues raised in the media however some are not an accurate account of the records – due to the nature of the concerns raised and in line with HSE frameworks the following actions are now in progress

- SHS have commissioned an investigation in line with the HSE Incident Management Framework we are awaiting the outcome of this investigation.
- SHS have been requested by the HSE to clarify the accuracy of the issues raised and to outline any additional measures that have been implemented to date.

- As per the Assurance Review Compliance Plan, SHS have engaged a Family Advocacy Agency ÓMRA – to work with the families and to act in a liaison capacity between SHS and the families of service users.

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Patricia McEvoy
Head of Service, Disabilities