

6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 19251/21**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of clinicians in CHO 4 that have been redeployed to track and trace, Covid-19 testing or vaccination and their original job title and the expected length of their redeployment in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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

Similar to the wider healthcare services, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) has been significantly impacted due to the unprecedented nature of this pandemic by ensuring that we mobilise speedily to meet all challenges in a safe, effective, secure and timely matter. From mid February 2020 we began to make preparations to increase significantly the capacity within the health services in anticipation of an unprecedented demand as a result of the global pandemic COVID- 19. Redeployment across the health service and public service was part of the response. HSE staff working in Community Health Organisations (CHOs) and Hospital Groups (HGs) were redeployed within their CHO and HGs. In addition, staff were redeployed from Corporate HSE offices and from the wider public service to support the pandemic effort. The HSE also supplemented its workforce through by increasing hours of part time staff and rehiring some retired clinicians.

The HSE workforce, including CKCH staff, has been utilised in an agile manner to support redeployment as required across services based on the skills and competencies required at the time. All disciplines of staff across Cork Kerry Community Healthcare have accommodated critical service delivery as it emerged such as contract tracing, testing, areas with outbreaks, public health management and vaccination programmes by redeploying staff as clinically indicated whilst sustaining good levels of care. This was and continues to be conducted in a safe manner whilst also ensuring that a substantial recruitment campaign has and continues to be undertaken in order to ensure that these new services continue to operate in parallel with pre-existing and enhanced services for the foreseeable future.

We do not hold a database of the staff who were redeployed at various stages of our response to the Covid pandemic over the past 15 months. However, the HSE is currently reviewing the staffing strategies that were utilised to support the pandemic effort.

Substantial changes and investment has been put in place during Covid19 that has strengthened our services, GP referral pathways and access to diagnostics, improved primary care, rolling out the vaccinations and continuing to protect the public and our patients from Covid19. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is persistently remodelling our resumption plans to ensure efficient and safe

delivery of all services is implemented in accordance with the most up to date public health guidance.

I trust this information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', written in a cursive style.

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**Priscilla Lynch**