



14th Dec. 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 59653/21

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of volunteers working at HSE vaccination and testing centres; if the €7 subsidised meal allowance was withdrawn from these volunteers by the HSE; and the amount the HSE saved from the withdrawal of the allowance.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare area works with volunteers in PuncHESTOWN and Citywest test centres and in the PuncHESTOWN vaccination centre. A Service Level Agreement with the South Dublin County Volunteer Centre is in place with approximately 20 volunteers per day, with each volunteer working a 3-4 hour shift. Meals and tea/coffee are provided to the volunteers. They also get a €7 travel subsistence per shift.

There was a delay in making this payment on a once off basis from the HSE to the Volunteer Centre which led to an interruption in them being able to pay expenses to their volunteers. The issue has since been rectified. We apologise for any inconvenience caused, volunteers play a crucial role in our National Test & Trace and Vaccination programmes.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Damien McCallion
National Director
National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme