



26th February 2021

Deputy Verona Murphy
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 10907/21 “To ask the Minister for Health the number of contact tracers presently operating within the Covid-19 test and trace system; the additional recruitment of contact tracers that has taken place since the start of level 5 restrictions in December 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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

I wish to confirm a total of 900 individuals presently operating within the Covid-19 test and trace system have been hired and retained for contact tracing. Of these 900 staff, 828 have been hired and retained as part of the dedicated workforce to support the contact tracing function. The remaining 72 staff are deployed staff from the HSE and other public service roles. Since the 21st December 2020, an additional 134 individuals have been recruited to the Contact Tracing Programme.

Recruitment continues and the number of staff required is kept under constant review.

I trust this addresses your questions.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing