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Deputy Seán Crowe
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 1152/21 To ask the Minister for Health the official title of the Covid-19 case management system that records daily cases; the date on which this system was activated; the total amount spent on this system in both its development and since activation; the persons and bodies that have access to this system; the daily capacity for the corroboration of positive swabs to individual cases; the way in which a backlog of approximately 10,000 cases was allowed to occur; the steps he is taking to ensure that a backlog will not occur again; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Crowe

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 system that records daily cases is the national infectious disease surveillance system (Computerised Infectious Disease Reporting system – CIDR). It is not a case management system.

CIDR records cases of all notifiable infectious diseases (not just COVID-19) in accordance with Infectious Disease legislation. The list of notifiable infectious diseases is available at <https://www.hpsc.ie/notifiablediseases/listofnotifiablediseases/>

CIDR first went live in 2004.

Information on the total amount spent on the CIDR system in both its development and since activation isn't readily available and would require review of financial transactions within HPSC over the past 17 years.

The following groups have access to CIDR

- * Approved staff in regional Departments of Public Health
- * Approved staff in a network of clinical microbiological laboratories and reference laboratories
- * Approved staff at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre

All those who have access to CIDR are required to have completed GDPR training and to undergo CIDR Training.

There is no data processing limit on CIDR. However, the daily data processing capacity is impacted by both human resources and technical constraints


Limited human resources, combined with technical constraints, in the context of an unprecedented number of daily COVID-19 cases in late December and early January, resulted in a backlog of cases in the system. The provision of urgent technical remediation measures, along with the dedication of staff in HPSC, regional Departments of Public Health and in the HSE Office of the Chief Information Officer, facilitated the clearance of this backlog.

To ensure such a backlog will not occur again, the following improvements have been made to provide sufficient processing capacity in the CIDR system:

- * Improved network connectivity,
- * an upgraded hardware and network infrastructure
- * increased automated data processing capacity
- * ongoing technical performance management measures

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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