

25th January 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 1966/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that have applied to become a community swabber; the number that have been selected to community swab; the number that have been employed through this recruitment process and are actively swabbing at present; and the number that have been employed and are yet to commence.

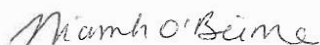
Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

I wish to confirm that a total of 3,451 applications have been received for the Community Swabber posts. There are a total of 717 community swabbers who have been hired and on-boarded, with an additional 9 to be placed this week. This is a brand-new role and these staff are now working in our centres nationwide. Recruitment will continue until there are at least 1,000 new people on-board.

I trust this addresses your questions.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing