



3rd February 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 2774/21

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of Covid-19 tests carried out in nursing homes in each month since March 2020”.

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.

Testing within nursing homes has remained a priority for the HSE since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic last year. The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) requested a planned programme of serial testing of all staff in residential care facilities (RCFs) for older people which commenced on 24th June. I have provided below a breakdown of all testing which has taken place in nursing homes since March 2020 which includes Outbreak and Serial Testing:

Year	Month	Number of Tests
2020	March	3
2020	April	6798
2020	May	17090
2020	June	8306
2020	July	97172
2020	August	48389
2020	September	44994
2020	October	75806
2020	November	77682
2020	December	82982
2021	January	142826
2021	February	12317
	Total	614365

I trust this addresses your question.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh O'Beirne

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National Lead Testing and Tracing

