

27th January 2021

Deputy Peadar Tóibín
Dail Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 44773/20

Question: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons residing in Direct Provision centres that have tested positive for Covid-19 in 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.

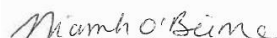
I'm sure you will understand that we cannot comment on individual facilities but I can confirm that overall c. 5294 persons were tested in Direct Provision facilities in 2020 with a positivity rate of 1.7%

There are a number of guidelines, measures and strategies that have been put in place to manage Covid-19 in Direct Provision and please see below links for your information:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/primarycare/socialinclusion/intercultural-health/hse-ipas-covid19-response-to-testing-and-outbreak-management.pdf>

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-ie/news/updates/2021/1/5e81d1ce4/information-on-covid-19-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-ireland.html>

I trust this clarifies your queries raised.



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing