

8th April 2021

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re PQ 15843 21: To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on Covid-19 testing and tracing in 2020; the amount budgeted for; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 15844 21: To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on Covid-19 testing and tracing in 2021 to date; the amount budgeted for 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 have outlined our response in one correspondence.

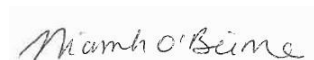
The estimated costs for Testing and Contact Tracing as at 31st December 2020 was €280.7m. The budget allocation for 2020 for Testing and Contact Tracing was €292.2m.

The estimated costs for Testing and Contact Tracing year to date 26th February 2021 is €108.8m. The budget allocation for full year 2021 for Testing and Contact Tracing is €445m. The costs in the first two months of 2021 are associated with the high level of testing required to respond to the significant surge in demand due to the third wave that commenced in late December 2021.

The HSE will continue to monitor and track expenditure in line with current and projected demand in 2021. The HSE is also assured that additional funding will be made available if required to ensure test and trace has the capacity to meet demand and implement any new initiatives that could support the reduction of the spread of COVID-19.

I trust this addresses your questions.

Yours sincerely,



Niamh O'Beirne
National Lead Testing and Tracing