



27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Joan Collins,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 16153/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if therapists are still redeployed for swabbing for Covid-19; and the number from CHO7.**

- Joan Collins

Dear Deputy Collins,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The redeployment of staff has mainly impacted on Primary Care and in particular therapy / clinical staff and there has been a corresponding loss of productivity in core services, this has led to an increase in the number of patients on a waiting list for therapy services.

Please see the below table listing the total number and type of therapy staff redeployed to Community Testing as at April 2021. Please note that currently 1 Speech and Language Therapist is redeployed in CHO 7 to support Community Testing.

Staff Type	Community Testing (# of WTE)	CHO 7 Community Testing (# of WTE)
Dietician	0.5	0
Occupational Therapist	2	0
Physiotherapist	2	0
Social Worker	1	0
Speech & Language Therapy	2	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>1</b>

As the pace of the third wave diminishes, we are developing plans to address service continuity to return staff back to core front line duties. The return of therapy grades including SLTs to their core functions will improve service delivery but it is important to note that services are still being delivered in an assumed Covid positive environment and this will continue until the vaccination programme for the whole population is complete.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maurice Farnan." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

Maurice Farnan  
A/A.N.D. Community Operations