



14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Deputy Catherine Connolly**  
**Dail Eireann**  
**Leinster House**  
**Kildare Street**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ 16887/21: “To ask the Minister for Health the number of full-time and part-time contact tracers, respectively currently working within the Covid-19 test and trace system; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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

I wish to advise there are 867 staff working in the Contact Management Programme. 734 staff (84.7%) are working full time. There are 133 staff working less than 37 hours per week (15.3%). Currently, all contact tracers are employed on specified purpose contracts and are contracted to work 37 hours per week. There is a smaller number of contact tracers who were hired/redeployed prior to our larger scale recruitment process for contact tracers, and they remain on the terms and conditions that they were engaged on at the time.

The HSE's Contact Tracing Centres are located in Dublin, Limerick, Galway and Cork. The HSE developed an Operating Model for the National Testing and Tracing function during the summer of 2020. A key component of this was to recruit a dedicated workforce for testing and contact tracing. The recruitment and training process is ongoing. The majority of staff have been recruited via CPL Healthcare.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
**National Lead Testing and Tracing**