



**16<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021**

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: [darren.orourke@oireachtas.ie](mailto:darren.orourke@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ Number: 58430/21**

**Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons contact traced using the passenger locator form in each month in 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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

The Contact Management Programme (CMP) aims to deliver a patient-centred service, accessible, consistent and flexible to demand. The service takes into account the evolving needs and future potential service demands in the context of the evolving nature of disease transmission.

The CMP use the electronic Passenger Locator Form (ePLF) data for a two reasons:

- To check the country of departure for all Index Cases, particularly checking for countries associated with a Variant of Concern (VOC).
- ePLF data is checked for all contacts designated as Close Contacts on flights which require contact tracing.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021, the Government introduced travel restrictions on arrivals into Ireland from 7 Designated countries (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini (Swaziland), Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique). As a result, the CMP have been using ePLF data to contact all incoming arrivals to Ireland who departed from or transited through one of the 7 Designated Countries within the last 14 days.

Due to evolving Public Health policy, collaboration of different stakeholder groups and the cyber-attack, answering the question requires the examination and analysis of data from a range of sources. As such, the resulting information is a total only and we are unable to provide a month-by-month breakdown. In total, the CMP identified 48,245 Close Contacts from inbound international flights between Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and Nov. 31<sup>st</sup>. Please note that a small percentage of these individuals may not have been traced due to being uncontactable at the time of tracing.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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**Damien McCallion**  
**National Director**  
**National Lead Test & Trace and Vaccination Programme**