



Oifig an Cheannaire Náisiúnta um Vacsaínithe  
agus Feidhm Tástála agus Rianaithe  
Foireann Bainistíocht Feidhmiúcháin, Ospidéal  
an Dr. Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Office of the National Lead for  
Vaccinations and the Test and Trace  
Function, Health Service Executive

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02 February 2022

**Peadar Toibin TD**

Email: [Peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie)

**RE: PQ 1004/22**

***To ask the Minister for Health***

- 1. the number of persons who were tested for Covid-19 at pop-up or walk-in testing centres since the start of the pandemic;***
- 2. The number who tested positive at these centres;***
- 3. If a centre breakdown can be provided on that figure;***
- 4. If he will list the pop-up testing centres which were operational in the State since the start of the pandemic.***

Dear Deputy Toibin

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 HSE currently has 35 static Covid 19 test centres, 3 test centres operated by private providers on behalf of HSE, and teams which can be deployed to set up a pop up test centre in response to a high demand for testing in a particular area.

Initially, referrals to community test centres were via a person's GP, the Contact Management Programme for close contacts and from Public Health. In March 2021, the HSE facilitated walk in testing (no structured appointment) in order to increase accessibility to testing in the community. This was facilitated at pop up (temporary) test centres and at the static test centres. In June 2021, a self-referral portal was launched that facilitated individuals in booking a dedicated appointment slot. The option to 'walk in' without a structured appointment was discontinued in summer 2021 when the demand for testing increased with the delta wave, as the unstructured nature resulted in long queues at times and challenges with traffic management at some sites. Since this time, people have used the self-referral online portal to book a test.

The report attached includes the breakdown of appointments and positive results at static test centres, pop up test centres and test centres operated by private providers on behalf of HSE. Some of the static test centres listed are no longer in use as an alternate venue was secured in that area. The report includes all sources of referrals to test centres from the start of the pandemic to 30/01/2022.

I trust this clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely

*Siobhán Reynolds*

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**Siobhán Reynolds**  
**General Manager**  
**National Vaccinations, Testing and Tracing Function**