

28th January 2022

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Issued via email to: peadar.toibin@oireachtas.ie

PQ Number: 1006/22

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who requested Covid-19 tests through the HSE request a test website link since it was introduced; the number of persons who were either issued with a PCR appointment slot; and the number who were sent a supply of antigen tests following their request through the link.

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic the Health Service Executive (HSE) established a number of testing pathways which included GP referrals, community walk-in test sites and the development of a number of online booking portals.

The online Self-Referral portal for PCR testing has been in operation since May 2021. The total number of PCR tests booked via this online portal is 2,450,097 as outlined in the below table.

A separate online booking portal was developed for persons requesting antigen test kits and this commenced on 3rd January 2022. The number of requests received for antigen tests through this online portal since it was introduced is 503,493 as outlined in the below table.

Testing Pathway	Total Requested
PCR Self-Referral (May 2021 – 27 th Jan. 2022)	2,450,097
Antigen Portal (4 th Jan. – 27 th Jan 2022)	503,493

The following data relates to PCR bookings made since the antigen booking pathway opened to the public on Jan 3rd :

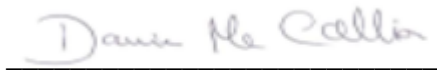
- From Jan 3rd - Jan 27th, there were 255,905 PCR tests booked online.
- A further 160,188 PCR tests were booked through GPs for same period.

All antigen test kits referenced in the above table were shipped to the requesters following their requests made through the website portal link.

To note Covid-19 testing is one part of the strategy in relation to managing the pandemic. It is key that the public continue to follow Public Health guidance, such as hand hygiene, mask wearing and keeping socially distanced to help in the prevention of the spread of Covid-19.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



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