

31<sup>ST</sup> January 2022

Mr. Pa Daly, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ re 1386/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if additional Covid-19 PCR testing resources in Killarney and Listowel will be provided to facilitate the current demand in County Kerry; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Daly,

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

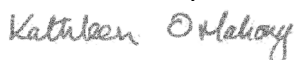
There was an extraordinary and unprecedented demand for Covid-19 PCR testing in the Cork and Kerry area in late December and early January due to the high incidence of Covid 19 in the community.

A pop up test centre in Killarney was run by the National Ambulance Service as a temporary site to support the established local service in meeting the unprecedented demand for Covid testing which had been experienced over Christmas and into January. In addition, those waiting for a test were also offered appointments in Mallow and Cork Airport and while it is acknowledged that this was not the most convenient for many the focus was to offer a test appointment at the earliest possible date.

Demand has now reduced and local established services have adequate capacity to meet current demand as evidenced by the fact that all established sites have appointments available on the Self- Referral portal. Therefore the temporary sites at Killarney and Mallow have been stood down as the current demand can be met by the permanent test site in Tralee. The public can be assured that that a test appointment can be accessed readily at the Tralee Test Centre.

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Kathleen O Mahony,**  
**General Manager,**

**Covid Unit, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**

**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare | Health Service Executive | Covid Unit Eagraíocht Phobail um Chúram Sláinte | Corcaigh & Ciarraí - Limistéar 4 | Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte |**

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