

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Mr. Pat Buckley, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 2961/22**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason the St. Raphaels Covid-19 test centre in Youghal, County Cork has been removed from the HSE website; if the HSE plans to cease its testing operation in Youghal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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. The pop up test centre at Youghal 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 that has been experienced over Christmas and into January.

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 Mallow and Youghal have now been stood down.

The provision of Covid testing is kept under constant review taking into account the demand in local areas, available support from the National Ambulance Service and current Public Health Guidance and ongoing consideration is given to the provision of localised in that context. The public can be assured that there is adequate testing capacity available and that a test appointment can be accessed readily at all permanent test sites.

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



**Kathleen O Mahony,**  
**General Manager,**  
**Covid Unit, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**