



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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01st February 2022

Duncan Smith TD

Email: Duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

RE: PQ 63260/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of whole-time equivalent PCR swabbers that will be required to sustain a level of approximately 200,000 PCR tests per week and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith

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 Community Testing Service was established initially to support the delivery of 15,000 appointments per day for Covid 19 tests. A number of additional measures have been implemented to increase that daily testing figure for peak periods to over 30,000 appointments per day. We increased the number of staff in the Community Testing Centres, deployed pop up test centres operated by the National Ambulance Service, and engaged with private testing providers to provide appointments on behalf of HSE to those requiring a Covid 19 test. This provided on average just over 34,000 appointments offered each day in the first two weeks of January.

Over eleven hundred full time swabbers are required to provide 200,000 appointments per week for Covid 19 testing for PCR. The operating model for Test and Trace is currently under review to reflect changes in demand and public health guidance. I trust this clarifies the queries raised.

Yours sincerely

Siobhán Reynolds

Siobhán Reynolds
General Manager
National Vaccinations, Testing and Tracing Function