

Message

From: McBride, Michael [/O=NIGOV/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9999965]
Sent: 31/03/2020 19:04:21
To: Pengelly, Richard [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk]; Geoghegan, Lourda [lourda.geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk]
Subject: URGENT - Request from Minister Swann

Richard

Paper being prepared on testing for you by Jenny and Lourda

I appreciate your frustration – my apologies.

Michael

From: Pengelly, Richard
Sent: 31 March 2020 18:51
To: McBride, Michael <Michael.McBride@health-ni.gov.uk>; Geoghegan, Lourda <Lourda.Geoghegan@health-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: URGENT - Request from Minister Swann

I am simply stunned at this.

R.

Richard Pengelly
Permanent Secretary DoH and HSC Chief Executive

Tel: I&S Network I&S Mobile: I&S

From: Hugo Van Woerden [<mailto:Hugo.VanWoerden@hscni.net>]
Sent: 31 March 2020 18:43
To: DoH Health Gold Sit Cell <healthgold.sitcell@health-ni.gov.uk> NR @health-ni.gov.uk; DoH Private Office <Private.Office@health-ni.gov.uk>; DoH SpAd <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>; Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: Gerry Waldron <Gerry.Waldron@hscni.net>
Subject: FW: URGENT - Request from Minister Swann

"This email is covered by the disclaimer found at the end of the message."

Please see response prepared by Gerry Waldron

Best wishes

Hugo

Professor Hugo van Woerden

Director of Public Health and Medical Director
Public Health Agency
12 – 22 Linenhall Street

Belfast, BT2 8BS

Tel: **I&S** Ext: **I&S**



From: **NR**

Sent: 31 March 2020 15:53

To: Hugo Van Woerden

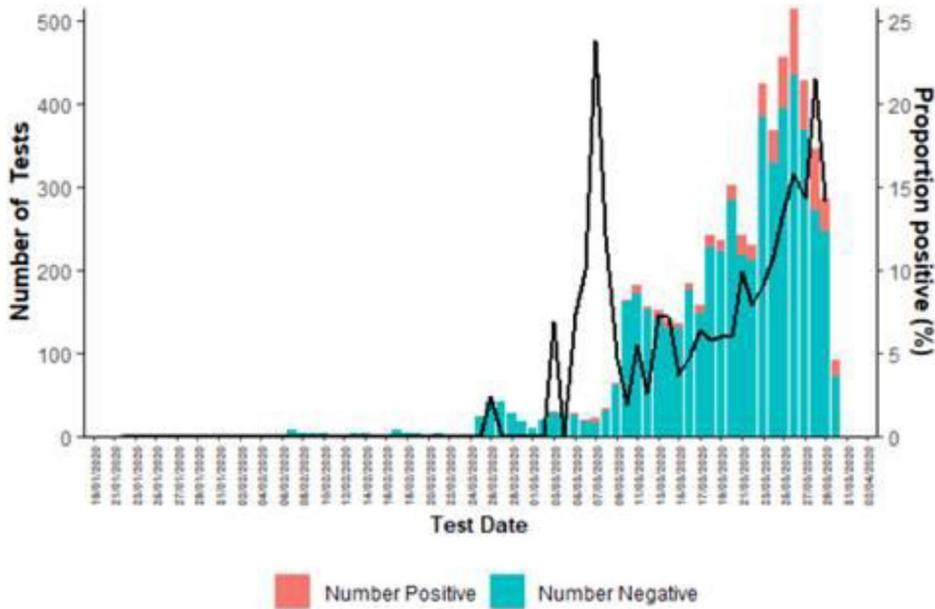
Subject: RE: URGENT - Request from Minister Swann

Dear Minister,

You have requested an explanation for the reported number of tests for SARS CoV2 reported in today's bulletin (attached) being fewer than those reported the previous day. I trust the following will address this.

On 30th March we reported that 513 individuals were tested whereas today we have reported 344 individuals were tested. We can only report on what has been tested from the data that is sent to us from the labs. These are not total tests, but total individuals. Therefore more than 334 tests may have taken place if duplicates are included. Reporting in this manner is consistent with that of our colleagues in England, Scotland and Wales. It is also important to note that there is likely a lag – with specimens taken yesterday only being tested today or over the next few days depending on batch numbers. This has been highlighted in the explanatory notes provided with the daily bulletin .

PHA can neither comment on testing capacity nor provide any commentary as to why that capacity may not have been reached – this is a service issue and will be addressed by PMSI/HSCB when the new reporting mechanism comes into effect. When we look at total number of individuals tested each day it does fluctuate as part of normal variation. Rather than focussing on a single day's variation, it is important to look at trends over time. The graph below shows daily changes since testing began. It will not be surprising if the numbers increase again tomorrow as the overall trajectory of total number of individuals tested continues in an upwards direction.



Yours etc

Dr Gerry Waldron
 Assistant Director of Public Health (Health Protection)

Public Health Agency
 4th Floor
 12-22 Linenhall Street
 Belfast
 BT2 8BS
 Tel: I&S



From: DoH Health Gold Sit Cell [<mailto:healthgold.sitcell@health-ni.gov.uk>]
Sent: 31 March 2020 12:13
To: WN-Cov
Cc: DoH Health Gold Sit Cell; DoH SpAd
Subject: URGENT - Request from Minister Swann

Colleagues

Please see below from the Minister.

Can you please advise as to why the number of tests completed has dropped again?

An urgent response is requested.

Regards
 Andrew
 Sit Cell

From: DoH Minister

Sent: 31 March 2020 12:00

To: DoH Health Gold Sit Cell <healthgold.sitcell@health-ni.gov.uk> **NR** <NR@health-ni.gov.uk>; DoH Private Office <Private.Office@health-ni.gov.uk>; DoH SpAd <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>; Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: COVID-19 31/03/2020 NI Daily Report from Health Silver

Do we have a reason for the number of tests completed dropping again?

regards,

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health.

From: DoH Health Gold Sit Cell <healthgold.sitcell@health-ni.gov.uk>

Date: Tuesday, 31 Mar 2020, 11:53 am

To: **NR** <NR@health-ni.gov.uk>, DoH Minister <minister@health-ni.gov.uk>, DoH Private Office <Private.Office@health-ni.gov.uk>, DoH SpAd <spad@health-ni.gov.uk>, DoH Health Gold Sit Cell <healthgold.sitcell@health-ni.gov.uk>, Pengelly, Richard <Richard.Pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: COVID-19 31/03/2020 NI Daily Report from Health Silver

Morning Minister

Daily Report from Health Silver attached

Regards
Andrew
Sit Cell

From: Health Protection - PHA [<mailto:hp-epi@hscni.net>]

Sent: 31 March 2020 11:43

Subject: COVID-19 31/03/2020

"This email is covered by the disclaimer found at the end of the message."

Dear all,

Please find attached the Daily COVID-19 surveillance bulletin for 31st March 2020 which has been developed by the PHA Health Protection Respiratory Epi-surveillance team on behalf of the Director of Public Health.

Kind Regards,

COVID-19 EOC – Surveillance Subgroup

"The information contained in this email and any attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistransmission. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, please inform the sender by return email and

INQ000440253_0004

destroy all copies. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of HSCNI. The content of emails sent and received via the HSC network may be monitored for the purposes of ensuring compliance with HSC policies and procedures. While HSCNI takes precautions in scanning outgoing emails for computer viruses, no responsibility will be accepted by HSCNI in the event that the email is infected by a computer virus. Recipients are therefore encouraged to take their own precautions in relation to virus scanning. All emails held by HSCNI may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000."

"The information contained in this email and any attachments is confidential and intended solely for the attention and use of the named addressee(s). No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any mistransmission. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, please inform the sender by return email and destroy all copies. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of HSCNI. The content of emails sent and received via the HSC network may be monitored for the purposes of ensuring compliance with HSC policies and procedures. While HSCNI takes precautions in scanning outgoing emails for computer viruses, no responsibility will be accepted by HSCNI in the event that the email is infected by a computer virus. Recipients are therefore encouraged to take their own precautions in relation to virus scanning. All emails held by HSCNI may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000."