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18th. December 2019

Deputy Caoimhghin O Caolain Dail Eireann Kildare Street Dublin 2

PQ50787/19: To ask the Minister for Health if attention has been drawn to concerns of persons in the Duleek area of County Meath regarding the potential impact on health of a number of heavy industries in the locality; if his attention has been further drawn to evidence to support this concern; the investigations conducted by his Department or the HSE in relation to the clustering of health conditions, for example, Guillain-Barré syndrome, respiratory conditions and cancers in Duleek and surrounding areas; if the recommendations of the investigations have been implemented; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O Caolain,

The above PQ question has been forwarded tom for direct response.

Both I and the local Public Health Department in the North East are aware of the concerns I believe you raising in your question. These included an incinerator, a waste water treatment plant and a cement plant in the area, alongside some health concerns.

An investigation was done and a report was produced and shared. (Copy attached). It showed no evidence of any excess disease.

This year I received a representation from Deputy Helen McEntee on the same issue. I agreed with her that I would be more than happy to meet with her and the local representatives to discuss the issue. She took it on herself to organise a meeting. I am waiting on that date.

Yours sincerely,

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH – STRATEGIC
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Attachment enclosed.

Report

