



An tOifig Náisiúnta um Sláinte Chomhshaoil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Urlár 2, Teach na Darach, Ascaill na Teile
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara.

T: 045 880 442 [✉:ehnationaloffice@hse.ie](mailto:ehnationaloffice@hse.ie)
Eircode: W9IKDC2
National Office for Environmental Health
Health Services
2nd Floor, Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

Deputy Niall Collins
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

September 30th 2019

Re: PQ ref: 37234/19

Investigations carried out in premises or businesses carrying out tattooing and/or body piercing 2010-2018 inc.

Dear Deputy Collins,

The Minister has referred PQ ref: 37234/19 for direct reply by the Health Service Executive.

Question:

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1264 of 6 September 2019, the number of investigations carried out in premises or businesses carrying out the business of tattooing and or body piercing in each of the years 2010 to 2018 and to date in 2019, by CHO area in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Response:

A total of **3** investigations were carried out in tattooing and/or body piercing premises or businesses in each year 2010-2018 and to end of August 2019.

See Table 1 below for breakdown by Principal Environmental Health Officer Area and CHO area:-



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Table 1:

Year	Investigations of Tattooing and /or Body Piercing premises/businesses	CHO Area
2010	0	
2011	0	
2012	0	
2013	0	
2014	0	
2015	0	
2016	1	8
2017	1	5
2018	1	5
2019 to August 30 th .	0	

There is no licensing or regulation of the tattooing or body piercing industries in Ireland. The HSE Environmental Health Service therefore has no statutory remit in this sector and does not undertake routine proactive inspections, monitoring or auditing of such businesses.

Where a tattoo or body piercing business has been implicated as a possible source in a case of a confirmed scheduled notifiable disease, such cases can be investigated by the HSE Environmental Health Service in conjunction with the HSE Public Health Service under the provisions of S.I. No. 390/1981 - Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 and Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (S.I. No. 276 of 2016).

While the figures above reflect statutory inspections please also be advised that on occasion the Environmental Health Service may also visit tattooing and body piercing businesses in response to RAPEX alerts on cosmetic products, for information gathering purposes in the development of infection control guidelines or for the education of student Environmental Health Officers.

I trust that this information fully addresses your request.

Yours sincerely,

Rita B. O'Grady

Ms. Rita O'Grady,
Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer.