



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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14th. July 2020

Deputy Matt Carthy
TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 1

PQ Number: 14473/20: To ask the Minister for Health if advice was provided to healthcare workers and or patients that they should not use commercial launderettes or dry cleaners during any stage of the Covid-19 pandemic; the scientific basis of such advice; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Carthy,

The above PQ has been forwarded to my Department for direct response to you on same.

No advice has been provided to Health Care Workers that they should not use commercial launderettes for laundering healthcare laundry.

A patient information leaflet entitled **Going home from hospital after coronavirus infection** was published in June 2020. This leaflet is for people who had a known COVID-19 infection and who were managing it at home either after discharge or because they were not sick enough to need hospital. It does advise that the patient laundry should not be sent to a launderette and this is based on public health advice. The link to the leaflet is here - <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/factsheetsandresources/Managing%20a%20COVID-19%20infection%20at%20home.pdf>.

In relation to laundry it set out the following:

Extract - Laundry

Wash laundry at the highest temperature that the material can stand. If you have household or rubber gloves you can wear them when handling dirty laundry. Hold laundry items away from yourself. Wash your hands after handling dirty laundry, whether you used gloves or not. Do not send laundry to a laundrette.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', with a horizontal line extending from the bottom of the signature.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
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