



**Office of the National Clinical Director
Health Protection Surveillance Centre**

25-27 Middle Gardiner Street

Dublin, Ireland, D01 A4A3

Ph +353 1 8765300

ncdhp@hpsc.ie

www.hpsc.ie

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Deputy Stanley
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

E: brian.stanley@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ Number 9762/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of inspections of meat plants carried out to date by the infection outbreak control team; the number of different plants inspected; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Stanley,

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 Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is a member of the national outbreak control team (NOCT) on meat processing facilities (MPF). The Authority has completed 30 inspections of MPFs which covered those connected with COVID 19 outbreaks along with a number of other MPFs. All plants identified by the NOCT have been inspected by the Health & Safety Authority. Three inspections involved joint attendance with other agencies including the HSE Public Health Department, Environmental Health officials and officials of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Two of these three inspections involved a single facility. Feedback was provided to the NOCT by the Authority. A high level of co-operation from management, staff and contractors in plants inspected was received as well as an overall responsiveness to guidance and advice issued both onsite and subsequently. Queries in respect to the inspection activities of the Health and Safety Authority should be directed to the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Members from regional outbreak control teams have visited ten facilities to date as part of the investigation of the outbreaks in those facilities.

I trust this addresses your question.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER

ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH,

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND TRANSFORMATION

Medical Registration Number 19719