



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Office for Public
Health/ChildHealth
Strategic Planning &
Transformation,
Health Service Executive,
Public Health Department,
Second Floor,
Mount Kennett House,
Henry Street,
Limerick

Post Code V94KN3N

Tel: (061) 483347

Fax: (061) 464205

Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

21st. May 2020

Deputy Cian O Callaghan
TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 52303/20: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the consideration of the scientific advisory committee of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre of the report of the lyme borreliosis sub-committee October 2019; the steps taken to improve testing, treatment and management of lyme borreliosis based on its consideration; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O Callaghan,

The above PQ has been sent to me for direct response to you on same.

The report from the Lyme borreliosis subcommittee of the HPSC did not make recommendations in relation to testing, treatment and management of lyme borreliosis.

The subcommittee delivered recommendations reflecting the terms of reference which were as follows;

- o To raise awareness in Ireland of Lyme borreliosis amongst clinicians and the general public
- o To identify and highlight best international practice in awareness raising about Lyme borreliosis for the general public
- o To develop policies of primary prevention of Lyme borreliosis in Ireland based on best international evidence
- o To explore ways in which to improve surveillance of neuroborreliosis in Ireland
- o To develop strategies to raise awareness among the general public particularly in relation to areas with higher tick populations.

A significant number of recommendations have already been implemented, including those relating to the provision of online resources (available on www.hpsc.ie) and the on-going collection of surveillance data on neuroborreliosis.

The unprecedented public health demands due to COVID -19 mean that the additional recommendations in relation to primary prevention and improved surveillance will be progressed when it is possible to do.

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 underneath.

DR. KEVIN KELLEHER, FFPHM, FFPHMI
ASSISTANT NATIONAL DIRECTOR –PUBLIC HEALTH/CHILD HEALTH – STRATEGIC
PLANNING & TRANSFORMATION
Medical registration number 19719