



Deputy Matt Carthy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

16/11/2020

**RE PQ 36006/20**

**Question**

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department or an agency operating under his Department have encountered expenditure in respect of hand sanitisation products or other PPE products that were subsequently subject to a recall by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in 2020; if so, the expenditure in respect of such products; if the expenditures will be recouped from the sellers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy

**Response**

Deputy Carthy,

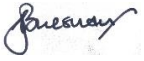
The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE moved immediately to deal with the matter once DAFM advised HSE on 22 October 2020 that ViraPro Hand Disinfectant Gel (PCS100409) had been removed from the Biocidal Product Register and that the product was no longer legal for use or sale in Ireland and should be removed from circulation with immediate effect. Stocks held centrally were placed in quarantine and a product recall notice throughout the Health Service was issued. A dedicated recall team was established to co-ordinate the collection of product currently in the healthcare system. A total of 3.1m units of ViraPro have been received by the HSE at the time of the recall. A total of 2.3m units are in quarantine with a value of €5.9m. To date the HSE Recall Team has processed 482 requests from healthcare facilities for uplift of ViraPro Hand Disinfectant Gel amounting to 64,342 units.

HSE has been actively engaged with the supplier of ViraPro with a view to resolving the issue. The HSE has put the supplier on notice that return and refund including any associated costs will be required. Discussions are ongoing with the supplier to give effect to this remedy under the terms and conditions set out in the HSE Standard Terms for Services and Supplies.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2251 or via [ohop@hse.ie](mailto:ohop@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sean Bresnan', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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**Sean Bresnan** | National Director of Procurement | HSE | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor | Dr. Steevens' Hospital | Dublin 8 | D08 W2A8 |  
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