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8th October 2020

Deputy Brid Smith
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
Email:

Re: PQ number 28193/20 To ask the Minister for Health the number of disease control workplace inspectors in the employ of the HSPC; the estimated full year cost of their employment; and the number of businesses inspected by them in 2019 and to date in 2020

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

There are no disease control workplace inspectors in the employ of HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC). Inspection of premises does not fall within the remit of HPSC. The Health and Safety Authority may be able to assist you with your question.

HPSC has six main areas of responsibility:

1. **Surveillance** of some of the major communicable diseases. By surveillance, we mean:
 - Collecting data
 - Collating it
 - Analysing it and
 - Communicating information to those who need to know
2. **Operational support** - providing expert advice to, and responding to requests for support from, departments of public health or hospitals;
3. **Training** for professionals working in communicable disease control;
4. **Research** - identifying and developing best practice in communicable diseases;
5. **Policy advice** - providing advice to government departments and appropriate agencies in relation to the development of standards, guidelines and practices, and promoting the adoption of best practice by different agencies;
6. **Public information** - providing information on infectious diseases to the public and the media.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Cuddihy,
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