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Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2  
Email:

**Re: PQ number 24167/20 To ask the Minister for Health his views on redefining the age brackets when reporting Covid-19 cases in children and young persons based on categories (details supplied). 0-4 (creche and preschool years), 5-12 (primary school), 13-18 (secondary school)**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

HPSC bases age categories in its reports on standardised World Health Organization (WHO) age categories. This is to ensure standardisation across all reports and to facilitate comparison of reports. For any reports confined to school-age children, we will certainly consider using alternative age-groups such as those described above.

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

Yours sincerely,

**Dr John Cuddihy,**  
**Interim Director of HPSC,**  
**25-27, Middle Gardiner St.,**  
**Dublin 1.**

MRN: 016227