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31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Deputy Patricia Ryan  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 17756/21 To ask the Minister for Health if cases of a double mutant variant of the novel coronavirus similar to that found recently in the Indian state of Maharashtra have been detected in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ryan

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

As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the National Virus Reference Laboratory, UCD has advised HPSC that no cases of this variant have been detected in Ireland to date.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cuddihy".

**Dr John Cuddihy,  
Interim Director of HPSC,  
25-27, Middle Gardiner St.,  
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MRN: 016227**