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26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

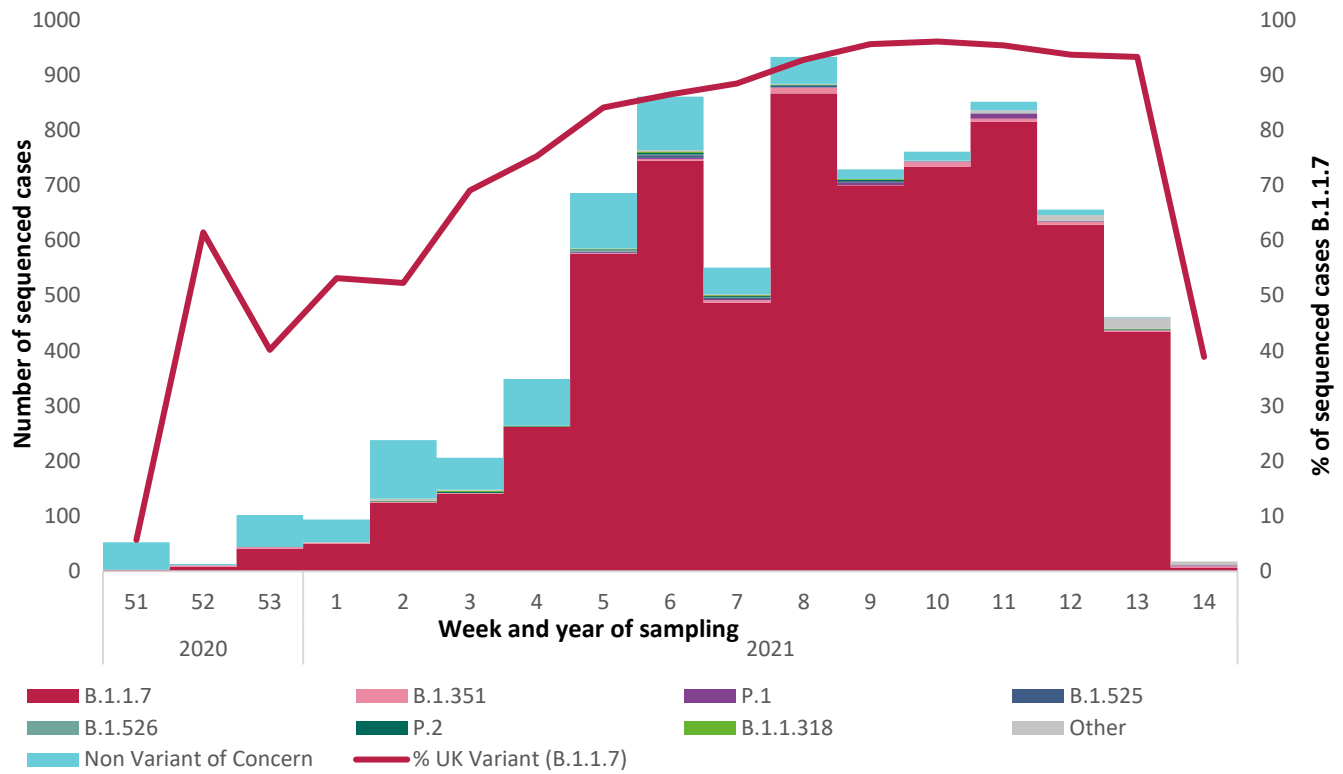
Deputy Matt Carthy  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ20066 To ask the Minister for Health the number of cases of the P1 variant of Covid-19 identified in Ireland by week in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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 23<sup>rd</sup> April, HPSC has commenced publication of a weekly summary of COVID-19 virus variants in Ireland. For the latest information on detection of variants in Ireland go to <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/surveillance/summaryofcovid-19virusvariantsinireland/>



**Figure 1. Whole genome sequencing results and percentage of sequenced specimens\* that were found to be the B.1.1.7(UK) variant of concern, specimen collection dates from week 51 (December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020) to week 14\*\*\* (April 10<sup>th</sup> 2021)**

\*The proportion of cases attributed to lineage B.1.1.7 is based on S gene target failure (SGTF) data from the Thermo Fisher TaqPath assay. To date, all those SGTF samples that have undergone WGS have been identified as lineage B.1.1.7.

\*\*Other includes probable or possible variants of concern and other variants of interest identified in <5 cases (A.27, B.1.617, B.1.429).

\*\*\*WGS result for specimens with sampling dates in recent weeks may not yet be available

^ The geographical region in brackets indicates the location where the variant was first detected

**Table 1. Sequencing results for COVID-19 cases sampled from week 51 (December 13<sup>th</sup> 2020) to week 14 (April 10<sup>d</sup> 2021)**

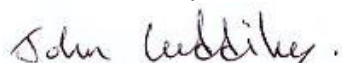
Virus variant	Number of cases
<b>Variants of concern</b>	
Confirmed B.1.351 (South Africa*)	55
Confirmed P.1 (Brazil)	24
Confirmed B.1.1.7 (UK)**	6623
<b>Other variants of interest</b>	
P.2 (Brazil)	14
B.1.525 (Nigeria)	17
B.1.526 (New York)	6
B.1.429 (California)	2
A.27 (Mayotte)	2
<b>Other variants of note</b>	2
B.1.1.318 (UK)	36
B.1.617 (India)	3
Other - not variants of concern or interest	754
<b>Total</b>	<b>7538</b>

\* The country in brackets indicates the country where the variant was first detected

\*\*Two cases infected with the B.1.1.7 variant were found to have the additional E484K mutation

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

Yours sincerely,



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