

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Deputy Matt Carthy  
Dáil Éireann  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 1095/21 “To ask the Minister for Health if an ambulance was called to a fur farm in County Kerry in December 2020; the reason for this call-out; if any workers at this or the other two fur farms have tested positive for coronavirus; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

Dear Deputy Carthy,

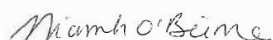
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The HSE was advised by the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020, that in Denmark the transmission of SARS-Cov-2 virus was identified in mink. To mitigate any potential risks to Ireland which might arise, a precautionary approach with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine was agreed.

As a result of this approach, the HSE is conducting serial testing of mink farm workers on a regular basis. Swabbing has been conducted by the National Ambulance Service. As you can understand we cannot comment on any individual facility but can confirm that no detected cases have been identified in any mink farm to date.

I trust this addresses your questions.

Yours sincerely,



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**Niamh O'Beirne**  
**National Lead Testing and Tracing**