



Deputy Imelda Munster,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

02/11/2021

RE PQ 51808/21

Question

To ask the Minister for Health the expense incurred by the HSE purchasing hand sanitiser which at the time of purchase did not have a valid pcs number or which had an expired pcs number; the cost of storage of such product; the value of such stock which was disposed of as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter.
-Imelda Munster

Response

Deputy Imelda Munster,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE was first contacted by Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) with regard to the Virapro issue on 4th September 2020 and arising from this contact the HSE immediately set about confirming the PCS Numbers for all hand sanitiser in stock which had been procured in response to Covid-19. As part of this exercise it was identified that hand sanitiser with a purchase value of €11.1m did not have a valid PCS number at the time of purchase and these products were placed into quarantine.

The HSE is awaiting the outcome of ongoing discussions between the DAFM and the suppliers in relation to Biocidal Registration. In the interim the products remains in quarantine with the intention that once the PCS Number has been received the product will be put into use.

The cost of storing this product to date is €221k.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2688 or via ohop@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

