



Health Protection Surveillance Centre

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25th April 2022

Deputy Michael Lowry
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ21334/22 To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the ongoing issues concerning the treatment and prevention of Lyme disease; if his Department has implemented in full all of the recommendations issued in the October 2019 report of the Health Protection Surveillance Centre Lyme Borreliosis sub-committee; the action his Department has taken to improve testing, diagnosis, treatment and management of Lyme disease on foot of the October 2019 report; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Lowry

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 report from the Lyme borreliosis subcommittee of HSE HPSC did not make recommendations in relation to testing, treatment and management of Lyme borreliosis.

The subcommittee delivered recommendations reflecting the terms of reference which were as follows:

- To raise awareness in Ireland of Lyme borreliosis amongst clinicians and the general public
- To identify and highlight best international practice in awareness raising about Lyme borreliosis for the general public
- To develop policies of primary prevention of Lyme borreliosis in Ireland based on best international evidence
- To explore ways in which to improve surveillance of neuroborreliosis in Ireland
- To develop strategies to raise awareness among the general public particularly in relation to areas with higher tick populations.

A significant number of recommendations have already been implemented, including those relating to the provision of online resources (available on www.hpsc.ie) and the ongoing collection of surveillance data on neuroborreliosis. The unprecedented public health demands due to COVID -19 mean that the additional recommendations in relation to primary prevention and improved surveillance will be progressed when it is possible to do.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derval Igoe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Dr Derval Igoe,
Interim Director of HPSC,
25-27, Middle Gardiner St.,
Dublin 1.
MRN: 009818