



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil
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Deputy Duncan Smith, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 53588/22

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to help persons with Lyme disease; the HSEs strategy on the disease given the increase in persons being diagnosed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Infectious Diseases (NCPID) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Lyme disease is a tick-borne infection that occurs when recreational or occupational activities result in tick bites from an infected tick. It is relatively rare, with estimations that a small proportion of people in Ireland are infected (<5%). The infection is known to be endemic in certain locations. In these areas, GPs are familiar with the most typical presentation, which is a rash, often with a bull's eye appearance. More complicated cases require referral to infectious diseases clinics.

The diagnosis and treatment of Lyme infection and diseases by infectious disease clinics operating in the public hospital system is based on guidelines as outlined by the IDSA (Infectious Diseases Society of America) that are endorsed by the IDSI (Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland), ISCM (Irish Society of Clinical Microbiologists) and other relevant national societies.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager