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PQ 44869/22: To ask the Minister for Health the current number of persons diagnosed with the genetic condition of lynch syndrome, also known as hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Farrell,

Lynch syndrome, or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer, is an inherited cancer predisposition which increases an individual's risk of a number of cancer types, including cancer of the bowel and of the womb. It is estimated that Lynch syndrome is responsible for 3-5% of bowel cancers but there is no national register of patients with the condition. The need for a comprehensive and coordinated service for those with an inherited cancer predisposition, including improved data collection, has been noted during the development of a National Genetics and Genomics Strategy, which is due for publication at the end of this year.

The National Cancer Control Programme is currently working on a number of projects relevant to Lynch Syndrome. These include a diagnostic pathway to increase detection of Lynch syndrome among those with cancer of the bowel, ovary or womb; an educational programme to support health care professionals in consenting and supporting patients undergoing genetic testing for Lynch syndrome; and development of information resources for those with Lynch Syndrome.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme