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31st May 2023

Deputy Louise O'Reilly Dáil Eireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

Re PQ 21293/23

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

Question:

To ask the Minister for Health the number of lung injuries and all other injuries arising from e-cigarette use admitted to the HSE in 2022 and to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Response:

In Ireland the regulation of disposable e-cigarettes is governed by the EU Tobacco Products Directive EU 2014/40/EU, which has been transposed into Irish law by SI 271 of 2016 EU (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale of Tobacco and Related Products) Regulation 2016 as amended. The Health Service Executive (HSE) Environmental Health Service (EHS) enforces these regulations. Regulation 33 (1) of SI 271 of 2016 places a legal responsibility on manufactures, importers and distributors of electronic cigarettes to inform the HSE of any public health concerns relating to electronic cigarettes and refill containers. Regulation 33 (1) of SI 271 of 2016 states:

33.(1) A manufacturer, importer or distributer of electronic cigarettes or refill containers shall establish and maintain a system for collecting information about all of the suspected adverse effects on human health of such electronic cigarettes or refill containers.

To date no adverse health effects have been notified to the Health Service Executive by manufactures, importers or distributors.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Maurice Mulcahy

Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer