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Mr Michael Fitzmaurice TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Re: PQ ref 27288/24

**Question:**

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will increase the number of tobacco and vape test purchase checks for ID, given the recent ban on under-18 vape sales and concerns that there are no plans for additional inspections in the HSE service plan; if he will increase the number of inspections for non-compliant or illegal vape products to above 40; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

**Response:**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, the Minister for Health commenced sections of the Public Health (Tobacco Products and Nicotine Inhaling Products) Act 2023. Section 33 of this Act provides for authorised officers to carry out test purchases. The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) is responsible for enforcing this legislation. The HSE National Service Plan 2024 gives a figure of 384 test purchase inspections to be completed in premises retailing tobacco products and/or nicotine inhaling products.

This figure is considered a minimum baseline and is part of a wider proactive programme of controls including targeted compliance building inspections to be conducted across the country, which will add to the minimum target of 40 inspections of manufacturers, importers, distributors and retailers of electronic cigarettes and refill containers.

Taken together a significant focus has been put upon building and enforcing compliance with the legal provisions associated with such products and premises.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Maurice Mulcahy  
Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer  
Health Service Executive  
National Environmental Health Service