



**FSS Lárionad Faire
um Chosaint Sláinte**

25 - 27 Sráid
Ghairdinéir, Baile Átha
Cliath, D01A4A3, Éire

**HSE Health Protection
Surveillance Centre**

25-27 Middle Gardiner
Street, Dublin 1, D01
A4A3

www.hse.ie

www.hpsc.ie

t 01 8765 300

e info@hpsc.ie



11th February 2024

Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: To ask the Minister for Health if her Department or the HSE were informed of the deaths from bubonic plague (also known as the Black Death) of monkeys at Dublin Zoo in 2024; the steps that were taken to avert the danger to public health; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 HSE has not received any reports regarding the incident referred to in the above Parliamentary Question. Should bubonic plague (caused by the organism *Yersinia pestis*) be detected in animals by veterinary laboratories, we would expect to have been alerted. On investigation we are satisfied that no such diagnosis was made by veterinary laboratories in monkeys from Dublin Zoo in 2024.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dr Éamonn O'Moore,
Director of Health Protection,
HSE Public Health: National Health Protection Office,
IMC No 015507