



**Deputy Cathy Bennett,
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2**

04th March 2025

PQ: 5635/25

To ask the Minister for Health to outline the public health response/contingency planning regarding significant adverse weather events; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -

Dear Deputy Bennett,

I refer to your parliamentary question regarding the above which has been passed to the HSE for response.

The Health Service Executive (HSE), as a principal response agency, operates under national frameworks including the *National Framework for Major Emergency Management (2006)* and the *Strategic Emergency Management National Structures and Framework Document (2017)*.

To ensure internal preparedness, the HSE follows its *Severe Weather Guidance Document and Checklist*, which provides adaptable guidance across its wide range of services and facilities. Local managers are responsible for developing specific severe weather preparedness plans for their respective areas, taking into account evolving challenges such as unpredictable weather patterns and potential impacts on service capacity.

This guidance is reviewed at least annually and after each severe weather event. Following such events, the HSE conducts *After Action Reviews (AAR)* to identify how the event has impacted the HSE, in the provision of its services, and how the HSE should better prepare for future events thus ensuring greater resilience in the provision of services.

Further information, including the guidance document, is available at the following link:
[HSE Severe Weather Guidance Document](#).

I trust this clarifies the position

Yours sincerely,

**Pat Healy,
National Director,
National Services & Schemes**