

**Question: 4.296**

To ask the Minister why the dog warden service has not been deemed as an essential service?

**Paul Donnelly TD**

**REPLY**

**Minister for Rural and Community Development (Michael Ring)**

Guidance has been provided on the Government of Ireland website to employers and employees as to what constitutes an essential service. This is available on the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/dfeb8f-list-of-essential-service-providers-under-new-public-health-guidelin/>

Some professions, such as the dog warden service, are not specifically listed in this guidance. However, some of the services they provide could be classified as essential, when the guidance is considered.

I understand that Local Authorities consider some aspects of their dog warden service as essential, for example, emergency dog warden services for urgent requests. These services are being operated locally in a proportionate manner and in line with all of the relevant guidance, including Department of Health guidance.