



Irish Greyhound Board

Sent by email: pac@oireachtas.ie

Yr Ref: PAC32-I-1633

Éilis Fallon
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

7th November 2019

Dear Madam

I refer to your letter of 23rd October 2019 regarding correspondence from Deputy Kate O'Connell dated 3rd October 2019 as mentioned under item No 2445 at the PAC's meeting on the 17th October 2019 and wish to advise as follows:

A veterinary practitioner attends at all greyhound stadia during race events. The care and welfare of the greyhound is overseen by the veterinary practitioner and any appropriate care is provided by the veterinary practitioner.

The sudden death of a greyhound at a race track is an extremely rare event. It had not been IGB's standard practice to perform post mortems on greyhounds that die at greyhound stadia during or immediately after race events. However, in recent months, the IGB's Veterinary Director, did request the veterinarian on duty at a track where a greyhound had died suddenly to perform a detailed post mortem and to report on the findings.

It is necessary that the required expertise is available to conduct post mortems. The IGB's Veterinary Director has been in contact with the Head of the Pathology Department at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Belfield, Dublin in relation to the provision of such post mortem services. IGB's approach for the future is that post mortems will be carried out on all greyhounds that die during racing events at tracks, using the combined services of the veterinarian at the track and those of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine.

If there is any further information required, you might please let me know.

I am also copying this correspondence, as a courtesy, to Deputy O'Connell.

Yours sincerely

Gerard Dollard
Chief Executive Officer

Cc Deputy Kate O'Connell by email to kate.oconnell@oireachtas.ie