

Leo Varadkar
Department of the Taoiseach
Merrion St.
Dublin 2

Dublin, 24/03/2020

RE: Designating pest management professionals as key workers during Covid-19 pandemic

Dear Taoiseach

I write to you to ask for pest management professionals, such as pest control operatives, to be designated as key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I do so on behalf of the National Pest Technicians Association (NPTA) Ireland. NPTA represents over 1000 members with a professional interest in pest management, including those that protect hospitals, food supply chains and the general public.

We live and work in extraordinary times, and while we all have significant challenges facing us with the Covid-19 pandemic, public health pest management must not be forgotten.

The professional pest management sector in Ireland has a critical role to play in:

- Protecting our nation's food from farm to fork.
- Protecting other essential workers in hospitals and supermarkets.
- Protecting the vulnerable and sick from further exposure to diseases.
- Protecting the distressed from further mental anguish of an infestation in their own homes.

Looking to Europe, pest control operatives have been classified as key workers in several countries, including Italy and Spain. Our members' invaluable work often goes unnoticed; however, it must continue unimpeded during this pandemic.

The NPTA-Ireland has been following and disseminating Government best practice to the pest management community, as well as creating guidance to keep operatives and their clients safe during the pandemic.

Our members are trained, qualified and Continually Professional develop themselves in Pest Management, meaning they are best placed to control and manage public health pests during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond.



National pest technicians association

I expect that you may have many requests on this matter, but I can assure you this is a critical public health matter and needs to be addressed. The NPTA and our members are ready to support Ireland during this pandemic. The best thing we can do to help the nation is to continue to work and professionally protect Irish citizens.

With the right direction and a meaningful national strategy, pest professionals have the knowledge, training and available workforce to support hygiene maintenance and disinfection.

Many pest management companies have access to specialised equipment used to control pests that are also regularly used in the application of disinfectants.

If called on, we will support the Government with disinfection and hygiene maintenance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Izart', is written over a horizontal line.

Christophe Izart
NPTA-Ireland Representative



National pest technicians association