

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY THE DEPUTY OF ST. JOHN
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 6th JULY 2010**

Question

“Can the Minister outline the practice used by Health and Safety officers in obtaining information; is it usual practice to cold call/telephone businesses and ask how many electrical sockets are in use within the premises and, if so, is this information then passed on to a third party in order that a survey of the electrical system can be undertaken, with a view to carrying out works?”

Answer

The Health and Safety Inspectorate obtain information in a number of ways including as a result of claims made for social security benefit, being contacted by individuals, businesses and representative groups, and as a result of carrying out visits to workplaces.

I can confirm that the Inspectorate have not been involved in making cold call telephone calls to businesses requesting information on electrical sockets. If the Deputy has any knowledge that individuals are misrepresenting themselves as members of the Inspectorate, I would request that he provide me with this information in order that appropriate steps can be taken as it is an offence to falsely pretend to be an Inspector.

Inspectors are restricted by law from passing on any information that they obtain during the course of their work. Such restrictions prevent them passing on any information to third parties for commercial purposes.