



HSE Board Briefing Template

Subject: Banking Transition Programme – Ulster Bank Care Centre Patients Private Property Bank Accounts closing on 24th July 2023

Submitted for meeting on: 30th June 2023

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Why is this information being brought to the Boards attention? It relates to a banking matter which is a function of the Board.

The HSE received formal confirmation from its banking service provider Ulster Bank that it will exit the Irish Banking Market in 2023. Danske Bank was selected as the replacement HSE Banking Partner. A project plan to transition current HSE banking requirements to Danske Bank is almost completed.

The HSE uses Ulster Bank to provide Patients Private Property (PPP) Services to 57 Care Centres – see Appendix 1 along with a PPP Central Unit account used for cashing clients' state allowances and investing the bulk of funds held. The HSE operates client PPP accounts on the basis of the Health (Repayment Scheme) Act 2006. The Act allows the HSE to receive and hold client PPP funds, to use funds for the benefit of clients and to invest funds on clients' behalf.

This proposal was considered by the ARC on June 16th 2023 and was subsequently recommended by ARC for Board approval.

Is there an action by the Board required, if so please provide detail?:

To approve the closure of all PPP bank accounts that are currently held with Ulster Bank.

Please indicate which of the Boards objectives this relates to ;

- The development and implementing of an effective Corporate Governance Framework, incorporating clinical governance and a performance management and accountability system;
- Developing a plan for building public trust and confidence in the HSE and the wider health service;
- Ensuring the HSE's full support for and implementation of the Government's programme of health reform as set out in the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy;
- Exercising effective budgetary management, including improving the value achieved with existing resources and securing target saving, with the objective of delivering the National Service Plan within Budget.

Brief summary of link to Board objectives.

It relates to a banking matter which is a function of the Board.

Background - provide context in order to ensure that the Board fully understand the issue.

The HSE received formal confirmation from its banking service provider Ulster Bank that it will exit the Irish Banking Market in 2023. Danske Bank was selected as the replacement HSE Banking Partner. A project plan to transition current HSE banking requirements to Danske Bank is almost completed. The HSE uses Ulster Bank to provide Patients Private Property (PPP) Services to 57 Care Centres – see Appendix 1 along with a PPP Central Unit account used for cashing clients’ state allowances and investing the bulk of funds held.

The HSE operates client PPP accounts on the basis of the Health (Repayment Scheme) Act 2006. The Act allows the HSE to receive and hold client PPP funds, to use funds for the benefit of clients and to invest funds on clients’ behalf.

Highlight any implications that the Board should be made aware of in its consideration such as;

- Current status – full transition to new banking provider.
- Budget
- Resources
- Impact to delivery of services
- Corporate Plan
- Slaintecare
- Social factors (e.g, impact on specific area such as the elderly, disabilities)
- Technological factors
- Legal factors

Conclusion

The Board at the meeting of 31st March 2023 approved the opening of replacement PPP bank accounts with the most proximate/suitable Bank of Ireland or Allied Irish Bank branch. This process is at an advanced stage and should be completed by the end May 2023 thus rendering the 57 PPP accounts listed on **Appendix 1** as ready for closure.

If the HSE doesn’t formally request Ulster Bank to close the PPP accounts listed on Appendix 1 and the Central Unit account then the accounts will be subject to a ‘forced closure’ 30 day after they cease to be operational on 24th July 2023. The HSE will thus engage with Ulster Bank to formally close the accounts properly.

Recommendation

It is requested that the Board support the proposal to formally approve the closure of the Ulster Bank PPP accounts listed on Appendix 1 and the Tullamore branch Central Unit account [REDACTED] and delegates the authority to formally do so at the most opportune time, likely end June 2023, to two of the Main Bank Signatories - [REDACTED].