21st May 2013

Deputy Charles Flanagan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 14287/13
“To ask the Minister for Health the measures that have been taken to tackle MRSA in Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, County Laois; the impact of these measures; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Flanagan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Midland Regional Hospital at Portlaoise has a guideline on the Control and Management of MRSA in place, the most recent revision is January 2013, and this was adapted from the Draft National Guidelines 2012 on MRSA in Healthcare Facilities. The implementation of this document includes:

- Appropriate screening of patients
- Treatment and management of patients
- Education of staff on standard precautions
- Surveillance of MRSA rates
- Communication/information leaflets for patients

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

________________________________
Mr. James Conway
Assistant National Director
Acute Hospital Services