25th October 2018.

Margaret Murphy O’Mahony TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St,
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Murphy O’Mahony,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question:

“To ask the Minister for Health the annual funding provided by his Department to the EU, healthcare innovation in the State, innovation hubs here and healthcare projects innovating new products here in each of the years 2013 to 2017, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

In response to your query I have attached a spread sheet with the relevant detail, in tabular form, and also advise as follows.

The Quality Information Corridor (QIC) programme is the key eHealth Ireland programme through which new healthcare innovation projects are funded. It was established in 2016, and is designed to allow clinicians, in collaboration with industry and research experts to seek seed-funding for creative digital solutions to healthcare challenges. The focus is on low-cost, low-overhead initiatives which offer practical solutions, with maximum funding of €25,000 per project available.

Two projects obtained funding in 2016 following the launch of QIC, while 21 projects were funded in 2017. These included initiatives to improve enhanced capacity planning, the efficiency of patient appointment booking, and the quality of drug-prescribing. The total expenditure in this period was €571,858.00 as set out in the attached table.
The guiding principles of the QIC programme are as follows:

- Proposals must identify a healthcare scenario which can be improved through the digital advancement proposed.
- The proposed digital solution must clearly demonstrate how it will positively influence and change the landscape for healthcare in Ireland.
- Submissions must include a Business Case and Cost Estimate.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Martin Curley
Chief Information Officer