



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais
Feidhmeannacht na
Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 125, Ospidéal
Dr. Steevens
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Health Service Executive
Room 125, Dr Steevens
Hospital
Dublin 8

2nd May 2019

Deputy Michael Harty TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 18046 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the overall quantum of expenditure undertaken by his HSE and the Department on non-medical professional expert advice and or services on a quarterly basis in each of the years 2016 to 2018 and to date in 2019; and the purpose of the expenditure undertaken. - Michael Harty*

Dear Deputy Harty,

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

I regret to inform you that the information you have requested is not available in the format you have requested.

The shortcomings in the HSE legacy financial systems are well acknowledged and their replacement by a single standard financial system for the Health Sector is at the core of the Finance Reform programme initiated by the Department of Health.

The HSE's most recent analysis of the 2017 expenditure for consultancy as per the HSE AFS reports and coding data identified that management consultancy reported spend for 2017 included spend on external professional services that would be considered as "business as usual" and as such does not fall within the DPER/Dept of Finance definition of Consultancy as defined below.

"Consultancy is where a person, organisation or group is engaged to provide intellectual or knowledge-based services (e.g. expert analysis and advice) through delivering reports, studies, assessments, recommendations, proposals, etc. that contribute to decision-making or policy-making in a contracting authority. The engagement should be for a limited time period to carry out a specific finite task or set of tasks involving expert skills or capabilities that would not normally be expected to reside within the contracting authority".¹

¹ Extracted from the "Guidelines for the Engagement of Consultants and Other External Support by the Civil Service" issued by the Department of Finance, 2006 and "Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies issued by DPER, 2016.

Work is underway to review, develop and implement clear definitions, and financial coding of Consultancy, Contractors and External Professional Services to ensure accurate reporting of expenditure in this area and that the data on spend reflects actual usage moving forward.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 045 882559.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

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