



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

5th February 2019

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 2446 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by the HSE on taxis in each of the years 2011 to 2018, in tabular form; and the reason for using taxis, for example, patient transfer, transfer of paper files between hospitals and so on; and if he will make a statement on the matter.- Louise O'Reilly*

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

HSE vehicles and their staff are prioritised for front line, emergency work and therefore a much more effective service is provided for patients or clients who are not acutely ill through the use of taxis. Taxi services are also used for transport of renal dialysis patients and at times for the transfer of patient charts/files between hospitals. The use of taxis for patient transport represents a more cost effective solution when compared to investment in a fleet of HSE owned vehicles for this purpose. Additional costs relating to this would include the provision of 24/7 staffing, maintenance, fuel, insurance and tax. The use of taxis also allows the HSE flexibility in the face of variable demand.

Please see **Table 1** below which shows the total amounts paid by the HSE for taxi services for the years 2012 to 2017.

Table 1						
HSE Taxi Spend for the years 2012 to 2017	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
For HSE Statutory systems only	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m	€m
HSE Taxi Spend	25.6	24.7	24.2	24.7	26.8	26.3
<i>Source: HSE Regional Finance ledgers</i>						

I regret to inform you that the data for 2011 is not readily available from our central information systems or from data previously collated. The data requested for 2018 is not readily available from the HSE Finance ledgers and must be specifically extracted by Regional Finance staff. Regional finance staff are currently fully absorbed in the preparation of the information for input into the Annual Financial Statements (AFS) and

would not have the capacity to process this request currently. It will not be possible to collate 2018 data until after completion of the AFS process (estimated to be concluded March 2019).

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.

I would be pleased if you could let us know by return if the information provided in the table suffices for your purposes or if you wish us to proceed with collating 2018 data when resources become available.
I await to hear from you.

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

Sarah Anderson
General Manager
Corporate Finance
sarah.anderson1@hse.ie
Tel: 045 882559