



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

22nd May 2019

Deputy Jan O'Sullivan TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 18657 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on taxis by the HSE in the most recent year for which figures exist by each CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

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 by CHO area for 2017 which is the most recent year available. These figures were sourced from the HSE regional finance ledgers and are for HSE Statutory services only.

Table 1

Taxi Costs by CHO Area for 2017 HSE Statutory Systems Only	
Community Health Organisation	2017 €
CHO 1	978,432
CHO 2	1,282,672
CHO 3	315,498
CHO 4	1,136,904
CHO 5	1,062,090
CHO 6	1,516,446
CHO 7	1,558,434
CHO 8	3,656,638
CHO 9	521,654
Total	12,028,769
<i>Source: HSE Regional Finance Ledgers & CHO Finance</i>	

Please note in view of the fact that there are still currently numerous ledger systems in operation in the HSE some differences in coding may arise. The figures collated may therefore include some other patient transport costs such as minibus and local transport initiatives. It is not possible to identify the level of costs involved as an extensive exercise would be required to perform such an analysis.

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.

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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