



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig Cheannasaí na nEastá
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Ms. Louise O'Reilly TD,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

12th June 2019

PQ 22834/19 * To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to reduce unnecessary energy consumption in buildings and the carbon dioxide emissions that accompany same in view of the range of buildings across the health service and the number of employees in the health service - 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.

The Health Service is committed to becoming a leading sustainable organisation delivering low carbon quality sustainable healthcare into the future, with the purpose of preserving natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, mitigating the effects of climate change and safeguarding high quality patient care. In order to establish a sustainable health system in Ireland, HBS Estates offices across the country are actioning a number of key integrated priorities, as outlined in the Sustainability Strategy for Health.

In addition, a National Health Sustainability Office (NHSO) was established in 2013 as part of HBS Estates to develop and implement national sustainability strategies for the Health Service. An Implementation Plan has been developed to create a pathway towards the Health Service becoming a public sector leader in sustainable development. This is being delivered through partnerships with various stakeholders, Government agencies and delivered through national programmes such as the Green Healthcare Programme.

HBS Estates has developed (with the assistance of SEAI) Energy Bureaus in local states offices. The remit of each Energy Bureau is to provide advice, education and training to service providers to bring about reductions in energy use in health buildings and to progress work programmes in partnership with other government bodies and agencies.

The main areas of action in relation to energy efficiency and carbon emissions are outlined below:

2020 Target - the HSE has successfully decreased its Baseline Energy Consumption by 25% over the 2009 baseline (SEAI figure to end of 2018 as reported under SI 426).

Optimising Power at Work – is a national staff behavioural change programme, run in partnership with the OPW. 20 HSE sites participating in phase 1 & 2 of the programme with an additional 7 sites in phase 3 (2019).

Big Switch Off – Part of the Optimising Power at Work Programme this competition ran in 2018 and will run again in 2019. In 2018 six hospitals participated and the winners, Mullingar Regional Hospital, improved their energy consumption by 15% during the course of the competition.

Energy Supply - The four main energy types are now each on one National Contract with a single supplier for each type which allows for better monitoring and reporting of the health services energy use.

Guidance documents developed - Sustainable Healthcare Building Guidelines; Specification & Use of Alternative Low carbon - Green cement; Specifying Healthy Healthcare Interiors for HSE Capital Projects.

Energy Efficient Design (EED) - Requirement for EED Review is now incorporated into the Scope of Works for Design Team Services for Capital Projects.

Staff Training - Training programme for staff in the following areas: - Certified Energy Management Training, Energy Map Training, EED Training.

Capital Investment to improve energy performance – the HSE has allocated capital funding to projects that improve energy performance in buildings. The HSE is also examining the possibility of using Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) as a mechanism to increase investment in healthcare buildings to improve the energy performance of these buildings. The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital has awarded an EPC and is undertaking a major upgrade to the building fabric and engineering systems to improve energy performance. Beaumont Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital and St. James's Hospital are examining the possibilities in relation to their sites.

SEAI Awards – Sligo University Hospital won the Public Sector Award in 2018. The award recognised the efforts by the hospital, with support from HSE North West Estates, in relation to energy reduction and energy saving initiatives. The National Ambulance Service won the Public Service category of the 2017 Awards for its work in undertaking a Green Technology Initiative in greening the ambulance fleet. This allows the service to reduce its fuel and carbon footprint thus reducing Energy.

HBS Procurement's Logistic & Inventory Management - Tullamore Hub won the Green Transport Award 2017 for its reduction in vehicle movements and fuel usage. This initiative lowered CO₂ emission of HSE national distribution by 38% in one year.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Curran
Head of Estates