



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Tobacco Control Office,  
Health Service Executive,  
2nd Floor, Oak House,  
Limetree Ave, Millennium Park,  
Naas, Co Kildare.  
Tel: (045) 880400

14/11/2019

Deputy Peter Burke  
c/o Constituency Office  
Blackhall Court  
Blackhall  
Mullingar  
Co. Westmeath

Re: PQ 44248/19

Dear Deputy Peter Burke,

The Minister has referred PQ ref 44248/19 to the Health Service Executive for a direct reply.

**Question:**

**To ask the Minister for Health the annual cost of ensuring compliance with the smoking ban; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Response:**

Item	€ Estimated Spend 2018	€ Projected Spend 2019
HSE Environmental Health Tobacco Control **	€1,874,981	€1,889,638
<b>Total</b>	<b>€1,874,981</b>	<b>€1,889,638</b>

\*\*The EHS costs are estimated based on current staffing levels and tobacco control activity including test purchases and workplace inspections. It is important to note that the HSE EHS undertakes a myriad of statutory functions apart from Tobacco control including Food Control, Sunbed Control, Cosmetics Control, Water Quality, Pest Control, Port Health Control, Infectious Disease Control, Environmental Impact Assessment etc. In line with the government policy and in the interests of efficiency and reduced regulatory burden on business, the Environmental Health Service acts as a multi-functional inspectorate with staff often undertaking a number of statutory remits in the course of one visit.

Tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in Ireland.

An assessment of the economic costs of smoking in Ireland has estimated that, in 2013, 5,950 premature deaths can be attributed to smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, along with over 200,000 hospital episodes. The total cost to the health service is estimated to be over €460 million.



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(available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a7ee00-an-assessment-of-the-economic-cost-of-smoking-in-ireland/?referrer=/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/an-assessment-of-the-economic-cost-of-smoking-in-ireland.pdf/> )

The Environmental Health Service works closely with the Tobacco Free Ireland Policy Priority programme which has the remit to mobilise health services to improve health and wellbeing and to play its part in the achievement of a reduction in smoking prevalence to less than 5 % of the population by 2025

I hope the above information is of assistance to you

**Yours sincerely,**

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**Dr. Maurice Mulcahy**  
**Regional Chief Environmental Health Officer**