



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

9th October 2019

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

Re PQ 39031 19: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on private ambulances by each hospital to date in 2019, in tabular form*

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.

As outlined in the Health Act, 2004 the objective of the Executive is to use the resources available to it in the most beneficial, effective and efficient manner to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public. In the last number of years, in accordance with this strategic objective, the HSE has centralised and reconfigured services nationally to create centres of excellence for the provision of critical services. Examples include the centralising of Renal Patients nationally to Beaumont Hospital, the development of Dialysis Services in Mid-West and provision of Radiation Oncology services in Dublin, Cork and Galway. Consequently, transport costs are showing an increase year on year particularly in the areas affected by the changes described above.

Please see below in **Appendix 1** the amount spent on private ambulances by each hospital for January to August 2019. This is the most recent data available. The data was sourced from the HSE Regional Finance general ledger systems and is for HSE Statutory services only. Please note that the 2019 data is draft only and is subject to change within the year end audit process.

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 for which there are no resources at this time.

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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Corporate Finance
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Appendix 1

Table for Response

Private Ambulance costs by Hospital for the period January to August 2019		
HSE Statutory Services only		
Hospital Group Name	Hospital Name	*YTD Aug 2019 €
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	MRH, Portlaoise	148,809
	MRH, Tullamore	401,826
	Naas General Hospital	97,985
	St Lukes Hospital, Rathgar	17,113
Ireland East Hospital Group	MRH, Mullingar	278,294
	Our Ladys Hospital Navan	79,502
	St. Columcille's Hospital	515
	St Lukes Hospital, Kilkenny	312,194
RCSI Hospital Group	Wexford General Hospital	231,216
	Cavan Hospital	493,170
	Connolly Hospital	75,653
	Louth County Hospital	5,510
Saolta Hospital Group	Monaghan Hospital	10,734
	Our Ladys Hospital Lourdes	372,220
	Letterkenny University Hospital	1,038,573
	Mayo General Hospital	714,880
South/South West Hospital Group	Merlin Park Hospital	65
	Portiuncula Hospital	208,022
	Roscommon County Hospital	105,456
	Sligo University Hospital	397,212
University of Limerick Hospital Group	University College Hospital	337,831
	CORK UNIVERSITY HOSP	309,532
	South Tipperary General Hospital	408,352
	KERRY GENERAL HOSP	101,333
University of Limerick Hospital Group	University Hospital, Waterford	263,181
	Ennis Hospital	19,855
	Nenagh Hospital	106,449
	University Hospital Limerick	404,068
University of Limerick Hospital Group	University Maternity Hospital Limerick	6,360
	Croom Orthopaedic Hospital	6,290
Total		6,952,199

Source: HSE Regional Financial Ledgers
 *Note: 2019 data is draft, unaudited and subject to change