



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamhlacht,
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2.
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Mr. David Cullinane TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

22nd December 2020.

Re: PQ41866/20. To ask the Minister for Health the spend on public ambulances by hospital for each year since 2000, in tabular form; the number of journeys made in each year; the effective cost per journey annually and on average; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) 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.

In 2000, the Area Health Boards were responsible for the operation and financing of the ambulance service, i.e. there was no national service. Emergency ambulances were used for inter-hospital transfers etc. and individual area expenditures and detailed statistics on transfer services are unavailable.

The Intermediate Care Service (ICS) was developed to provide inter-hospital and inter-facility transfer of patients in order to support the Acute Hospitals planning/bed management and discharge policies. In addition, this service greatly reduces the reliance on emergency ambulances to undertake such calls thus assisting to ensure their availability to respond to emergency incidents.

With the introduction of the new consolidated finance system and KPIs (key performance indicators) for the ICS service, pay expenditure and performance information is jointly available from 2016 onwards. In addition, the following caveats also apply to the financial information.

1. Expenditure is recorded by National Ambulance Service areas and not by Hospital.
2. Where an emergency ambulance has answered a call for patient transport this would not be recorded in the ICS pay cost centre and vice-versa.

It is not possible to provide the effective cost per journey as non-pay ICS costs do not have separate cost centres.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh - Senior Executive Officer.



Table								
	Overall Result	North West ICS	Mid-West ICS	West ICS	East Coast ICS	North East ICS	South ICS	South East ICS
2016	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Pay	4,639,242	834,841	625,310	728,903	318,447	744,469	890,722	496,551

Please note there was no Midlands ICS pay cost centre in 2016.

The total number of patient transfers for 2016 was 29,262 of which 70% were provided by the ICS.

Table									
	Overall Result	North West ICS	Mid-West ICS	West ICS	East Coast ICS	Midlands ICS	North East ICS	South ICS	South East ICS
2017	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Pay	5,832,363	940,811	640,593	889,444	1,075,248	61,329	579,302	1,134,362	511,274

The total number of patient transfers for 2017 was 30,396 of which 89% were provided by the ICS.

Table									
	Overall Result	North West ICS	Mid-West ICS	West ICS	East Coast ICS	Midlands ICS	North East ICS	South ICS	South East ICS
2018	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Pay	6,976,537	1,011,464	650,274	997,343	1,316,781	138,634	866,869	1,290,291	704,880

The total number of patient transfers for 2018 was 32,983 of which 90% were provided by the ICS.

Table									
	Overall Result	North West ICS	Mid-West ICS	West ICS	East Coast ICS	Midlands ICS	North East ICS	South ICS	South East ICS
2019	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Pay	7,379,960	977,228	751,289	982,414	1,401,338	222,957	808,724	1,450,381	785,629

The total number of patient transfers for 2019 was 31,738 of which 90% were provided by the ICS.

Table									
	Overall Result	North West ICS	Mid-West ICS	West ICS	East Coast ICS	Midlands ICS	North East ICS	South ICS	South East ICS
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Nov-20	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
Pay	7,438,749	826,540	699,803	923,241	1,437,462	210,999	1,016,700	1,537,696	786,308

The total number of patient transfers up to 30th October 2020 was 23,651 and the projected outcome is 90% service provision by the ICS.