



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

23 December 2020

Deputy Sorca Clarke
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

PQ 42453/20 *To ask the Minister for Health the contract length for temporary in circumstances in which a public hospital is considering moving an outpatients department to a private hospital facility on a temporary basis.*

PQ 42456/20 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of public hospitals currently considering moving a department to a private hospital facility.*

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Deputy may be aware that a number of public Hospitals are already utilising capacity in alternative locations, including private hospitals, to ensure that there is capacity in place to provide continued access for patients and where appropriate social distancing and infection control measures can be met. The HSE and Hospitals are continuing to focus on the development of additional public capacity where possible, however, the HSE has asked all Hospitals to consider utilisation of appropriate alternative capacity as short term measure where this will support improved access for patients.

In relation to the use of private provider, the HSE has put in place a panel of providers whereby Hospitals can tender for specific services and diagnostics through mini-competition. This panel will remain in place for 2 years with the option to extend for 2 one-year periods i.e. maximum of 4 years.

If the Deputy has a query regarding any specific sites, I am happy to seek further details.

I trust that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Kidd
Assistant National Director, Acute Operations