



Deputy Sean Crowe,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

04/06/2020

RE PQ 6782/20

Question

To ask the Minister for Health the procurement arrangements and contracts signed throughout the Covid-19 crisis for PPE; the cost of this equipment; if consideration has been made on behalf of the State to purchase the machinery to manufacture this vital equipment; and the estimated cost of PPE purchases to date. -Seán Crowe

Response

Deputy Crowe,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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.

HSE has estimated from recent modelling studies that the cost of PPE required for Covid-19 at current consumption levels could exceed €1bil per annum.

The HSE considered the purchase of machinery to manufacture PPE among an initial long list of options however the option of identifying and supporting existing (and potential) indigenous suppliers of PPE categories to increase capacity or to develop new manufacturing capabilities is being actively pursued in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland.

The HSE initially leveraged its existing contracts and traditional known suppliers of PPE during the Covid-19 crisis however, it quickly became evident that significant additional supply would be required. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis to date, the HSE, in conjunction with Enterprise Ireland, IDA and other state agencies, has responded to the challenge of sourcing enough quality PPE to meet Ireland's needs by:

- Rapidly identifying and securing new international sources of supply (largely from China and Korea), leveraging Ireland's networks; and
- Identifying and supporting existing (and potential) indigenous suppliers of PPE categories to increase capacity or to develop new manufacturing capabilities.

To date, this national approach by the HSE has proved successful.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2251 or via ohop@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,


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