



Feidhmeannas Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Mr. David Cullinane, T.D.  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 36861/20

**“To ask the Minister for Health his plans for modernising and integrating data management practices in the health system”**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

In response to your query, our ability to monitor, manage and improve individual health outcomes is a key goal for our health service. We recognise that a data-centric approach is critical to our ability to achieve this, and we need data to plan, deliver and monitor progress on key service interventions.

As part of our pandemic response the HSE's Integrated Information Services (IIS) team successfully delivered a connected, combined and shared data management platform to provide the insights and situational awareness to manage the crisis. They delivered a best in class centralised data repository (Health Analytics and Insights) which provided an aggregated source of truth providing accurate and robust digital data and information to support evidence-based planning and operations for COVID. At the time of writing this platform has been used to report on the ~1.6M referrals, ~1.79M tests, ~68K cases as well as available critical hospital resources across our health systems i.e. critical care beds.

These insights allowed us to understand the current situation, but critically the aggregated data advanced our ability to simulate, and model the demand and capacity of our system, allowing us to put in place robust responses fit for purpose. On the back of the success of this initiative and our

commitment to modernise and integrate data, we are currently enhancing the platform to support insights across our strategic reform initiatives such as Scheduled Care, Enhanced Primary and Acute Care, as well as Services Continuity and Test and Trace for COVID-19. In 2021 will also be implementing a Health Performance Visualisation to provide near real time health data and trends across the HSE.

If you feel that the question has not been fully answered or you require any further clarity, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Fran Thompson,**  
**Interim Chief Information Officer, OoCIO, HSE.**