



Oifig an Leas-Stiúrthóir Ginearálta-Oibríochtaí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8

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20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Mr. Sean Sherlock, TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

By email to: [sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie](mailto:sean.sherlock@oireachtas.ie)

**Ref: PQ 29074/20**

To ask the Minister for Health the basis on which and the cost of consultants that have been employed by the HSE for the purposes of providing consultancy services in response to Covid-19.

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Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 response.

As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic the HSE established an Integrated National Operational Hub (INOH) led by the Chief Operations Officer in early March 2020. A wide range of offers of assistance were received by the HSE during this initial period, inclusive of offers of support from a number of external consultancy firms including some of the firms referenced in your question. These firms were already engaged by the HSE through existing service level agreements and drawn from the OGP Framework. They have supported the significant work undertaken by HSE staff to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic across a number of work streams throughout the operational system.

Each consultancy firm has significant prior experience and knowledge in particularly relevant areas within the HSE through existing SLA's and on-going projects and so therefore were positioned to quickly take up programmes of work at scale in response to the COVID-19 demands. In discussions with the firms it was agreed by them that support would be provided to the HSE for COVID19 critical projects to the end of March 2020 on a pro-bono basis with no cost to the HSE for the work undertaken.

The HSE has also agreed specific terms of engagement with each of the firms for work undertaken by them as part of the COVID-19 response in the period since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at reduced rates. The quantum and type of support provided to the HSE by the consultancy firms in the period since early March has been essential in supporting the range, scale and complexity of services required to deal with the dynamic COVID-19 pandemic response demands.

The HSE has a process in place to monitor the quantum and range of supports provided through agreed statements of work with particular consultancy firms. Whilst the HSE costs related to these supports with each individual consultancy firm remain commercially confidential with those firms, I can

advise that in the period since March 2020 the HSE has incurred expenditure of approximately €5m for external support to COVID-19 critical programmes of work. These programmes of work include procurement & PPE modelling/ forecasting, testing & contact tracing, ICT enablement & data architecture, capacity & demand modelling, strategic workforce planning, estates & building readiness and clinical programmes. I can assure you that the requirement for external consultancy supports for critical COVID-19 projects and programmes of work is kept under constant review.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne O'Connor', written in a cursive style.

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Anne O'Connor  
Chief Operations Officer