



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais
Feidhmeannacht na
Seirbhíse Sláinte
Seomra 125, Ospidéal
Dr. Steevens
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Health Service Executive
Room 125, Dr Steevens
Hospital
Dublin 8

28th October 2020

Deputy Alan Kelly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 30231 20: *To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by the HSE in contracting debt collection agencies to pursue unpaid statutory charges in each of the years 2013 to 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 30232 20: *To ask the Minister for Health the costs incurred by each public hospital in contracting external debt collection agencies to pursue unpaid statutory charges in each of the years 2013 to 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. –*

PQ 30233 20: *To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatients or inpatient day cases with unpaid inpatient charges whose debt was referred to a debt collection or legal agency in each of the years 2013 to 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

PQ 30234 20: *To ask the Minister for Health the expenditure by the HSE and public hospitals on referral of statutory charges to external debt collection or legal agencies; the breakdown of expenditure per charge, that is, inpatient charge, outpatient and emergency charge in each of the years 2013 to 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive 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. Your PQ's above have been referred to me for response.

Context:

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound effect on activity in public hospitals, particularly in the period March to May. During that time, non-urgent elective surgery was cancelled on NPHET advice; and some activity was displaced into private hospitals. It is also important to note that patients suffering from COVID-19 were exempt from statutory charges. All of these factors would have led to a decrease in billable statutory charges in that period.

For PQ 30231 20 please see Appendix 1 Table 1 attached below which shows the amount spent by the HSE on debt collection agencies for all HSE Statutory locations for the period 2013 to ytd Sept 2020, being the most recent period for which data is readily available.

For PQ 30232 20 please see Appendix 1 Table 2 also attached below which shows the cost incurred by each HSE Statutory Hospital only for the use of debt collection agencies for the period 2013 to ytd Sept 2020, again being the most recent period for which this data is readily available.

All data was sourced from HSE Regional Finance ledgers. 2020 figures are preliminary and subject to the year-end audit process.

In relation to your PQ 30233 20 regarding *'the number of inpatients or inpatient day cases with unpaid inpatient charges whose debt was referred to a debt collection or legal agency'* and PQ 30234 20 regarding *'the breakdown of expenditure per charge, that is, inpatient charge, outpatient and emergency charge'*, the data requested is not captured centrally and is therefore not available.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

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Appendix 1

Table 1 - Response to PQ 30231 20

HSE Total Debt Collection costs for the years 2013 to YTD September 2020	
HSE Statutory services only	
Year	Amount €
2013	439,307
2014	532,785
2015	567,724
2016	585,822
2017	603,798
2018	574,515
2019	687,214
YTD Sept 2020*	386,389
Total	4,377,555

Source: HSE Regional Finance Ledger Systems

**Note: Please note 2020 figures are draft only and are subject to change within the year end audit process*

Please note in view of the fact that there are still currently numerous ledger systems in operation in the HSE, some differences in coding may arise. This data is the total debt collection costs which includes a small community services element

Appendix 1

Table 2 – Response to PQ 30232 20

HSE Debt Collection costs by Acute Hospitals only for the years 2013 to YTD September 2020									
HSE Statutory services only									
Hospital Name	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	*YTD Sept 2020	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cavan General Hospital	5,229	13,199	19,770	17,657	24,512	29,613	19,608	8,425	138,013
Connolly Hospital	39,286	35,582	38,578	53,079	41,651	37,871	45,018	28,375	319,440
CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL	84,359	84,317	83,389	85,355	86,889	99,812	110,411	81,373	715,905
Croom Hospital	2,639	3,008	5,324	1,668	881	877	1,076	1,955	17,429
Ennis Hospital	1,806	2,441	1,116	340	9,468	4,280	3,610	2,018	25,078
KERRY GENERAL HOSPITAL	5,326	3,116	2,935	3,916	1,629	1,791	2,707	4,556	25,977
Kilcreene Hospital	1,119	329	201	369	253	256	361	256	3,144
Letterkenny University Hospital	2,898	14,018	8,399	10,739	8,552	17,857	10,899	4,310	77,672
Louth County Hospital	2,227	3,665	4,582	6,353	7,423	6,899	6,999	3,510	41,658
MALLOW GENERAL HOSPITAL	193	589	345	30	70	796	65	3,747	5,835
Mayo University Hospital	14,526	43,117	20,291	21,024	35,166	27,135	50,042	27,533	238,833
MRH MULLINGAR	37,399	27,223	19,309	28,995	18,880	30,634	30,830	17,325	210,594
MRH PORTLAOISE	23,656	29,516	20,162	23,415	46,024	18,710	24,810	19,491	205,784
MRH Tullamore	30,017	29,546	27,911	39,594	23,996	27,196	32,396	9,818	220,473
Naas General Hospital	11,298	12,506	9,738	20,257	14,956	14,207	29,494	10,622	123,078
Nenagh Hospital	2,569	3,002	2,881	1,168	2,485	4,602	6,220	5,430	28,357
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda	16,245	40,004	42,324	32,815	41,958	34,032	52,635	10,935	270,948
Our Lady's Hospital Navan	3,675	7,454	7,088	13,427	13,301	16,013	14,228	6,893	82,079
Portiuncula Hospital			16,641	25,208	19,896	18,097	23,667	5,406	108,915
Roscommon University Hospital	381	1,865	1,201	461	302	2,822	1,996	540	9,568
Sligo University Hospital	6,910	6,019	11,480	2,143	2,999	9,016	14,964	11,805	65,335
South Tipperary General Hospital	8,461	14,208	19,333	16,674	8,959	7,972	15,982	4,235	95,825
St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny	5,752	6,585	8,600	10,217	18,861	14,032	16,835	8,327	89,210
St. Columcille's Hospital	13,659	8,079	5,345	7,237	10,541	7,253	4,577	4,449	61,139
University Hospital Galway	42,266	75,113	91,765	65,798	71,274	63,585	59,287	50,039	519,127
University Hospital Limerick	22,930	28,098	32,662	39,327	29,376	33,971	32,442	19,405	238,211
University Hospital Waterford	43,366	29,990	51,046	47,505	38,858	29,137	46,325	19,210	305,438
Wexford General Hospital	9,856	8,664	13,249	12,312	24,194	15,663	29,343	16,132	129,412
Total	438,048	531,254	565,665	587,081	603,355	574,128	686,826	386,120	4,372,477

Source: HSE Regional Finance Ledger Systems

*Note: Please note 2020 figures are draft only and are subject to change within the year end audit process

Please note in view of the fact that there are still currently numerous ledger systems in operation in the HSE, there are different variants of hospital names and some differences in coding may arise.