



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

St Canice's Hospital  
South East Community Healthcare  
Lacken,  
Dublin Road  
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784100

23 September 2020

Mr. Martin Browne T.D.  
Dail Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin

**PQ Reference Number 24833/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the cost of transporting patients requiring psychiatric services at St. Luke's, Kilkenny and accompanying staff from South Tipperary General Hospital to St. Luke's since the closure of St. Michael's unit by year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.*

**Cost of transporting a patient with a Nurse**

Pre-Covid	Covid
€268.39	€288.54

**Cost of transport since the close of St. Michael's Unit**

Year	Number	Transport -only		Transport & Nurse	
2018	96*	€6,801.60		€25,765.44	
2019	136*	€9,635.60		€36,501.01	
2020	117*	€2,054.65	€8,008.00	€7,783.31	€25,391.52
	29* (Pre Covid)	(Pre-Covid)	(Covid)	(Pre-Covid)	(Covid)
	88* (Covid)				

\*These are the numbers transferred to the Department of Psychiatry, Kilkenny. However, this information includes all service users and a number of service users transport themselves or by family to the Department of Psychiatry.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Heffernan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

**David Heffernan**  
**Head of Mental Health Services**  
**South East Community Healthcare**