



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

Telephone 353 56 7784100

24 September 2020

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

PQ Reference Number 24834/20

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost that will be incurred over the next five years, by year, of transporting patients requiring psychiatric services and accompanying staff to St. Luke's, Kilkenny from South Tipperary General Hospital; 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.

The Ambulance Service is currently unable to provide patient transport to the Department of Psychiatry, Kilkenny from South Tipperary General Hospital. This has led the service to engage a private provider (on contract) accompanied with an escort. This may be reconfigured in the new Regional Integrated Care Area and we will therefore not incur such additional costs.

An estimated cost for the next five years based on the numbers transported with accompanying staff for the first 8 months of 2020 to the Department of Psychiatry from South Tipperary General Hospital would incur an estimated cost of €225,447 - (please note not all transfers require transport/nursing escort).

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

Yours sincerely,

David Heffernan
Head of Mental Health Services
South East Community Healthcare