



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

9th April 2021

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 14206 21: *To ask the Minister for Health the cost of the operation of the State's agreement with private hospitals which ran from the beginning of April to the end of June 2020; and the amount paid to each participating private hospital under the agreement for each of the three months in tabular form.*

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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 above has been referred to me for response.

In March 2020, as part of the government's national action plan in response to COVID-19, it directed the Health Service Executive (HSE) to implement a partnership arrangement between the HSE and the independent health sector hospital providers as part of a common purpose action to make their facilities and capacity available to meet the challenges of the pandemic. The arrangement would support the HSE in meeting the increased overall demand arising from the pandemic as well as supporting the delivery of time dependent surgery and the on-going needs of urgent medical patients where the public hospitals could not meet such demands safely. On 29th May, 2020, Government decided to conclude the partnership arrangement on 30th June 2020.

The arrangement made the facilities and capacity of 18 private hospitals available to the HSE to meet the challenges of the pandemic. This capacity included approximately 8,000 staff, 1,700 in-patient beds, 70 critical care beds, as well as 700 day beds.

The HSE and the private hospitals signed a Heads of Terms to record the principal terms and conditions of the arrangement. Under the Heads of Terms, it was provided that the HSE would reimburse the operational costs of private hospitals on an open book accounting basis. The Heads of Terms also provided that the HSE would, inter alia, respect the confidential commercial nature of the dealings with each private hospital. Therefore, it is not possible to disclose the payments to individual private hospitals.

The following table summarises the total costs of the arrangement in 2020. The table includes the cost of private-only consultants who signed a Type A contract for the duration of the arrangement (payroll and expenses), as well as the cost of patients covered by the transition provisions of the Heads of Terms. (Transition patients were those patients whose episode of care extended beyond 30th June 2020.)

Cost of Private Hospital Agreement 2020	€m
Private Hospitals (excluding Consultants)	271.1
Private-Only Consultants on Type A Contracts	14.0
Transition Patients	4.1
	289.2

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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