



Deputy Mairead Farrell,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
23/03/2021

RE PQ 14381/21

Question

To ask the Minister for Health the details of medical equipment valued above €25,000 plus VAT procured in 2019 and 2020 which was found to be below standard, disaggregated by procurement competition type in tabular form.
-Mairéad Farrell

Response

Deputy Farrell,

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 Health for response.

The total value of orders raised for PPE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was €919m. All products received were reviewed against quality standards as specified by World Health Organisation and all purchases are subject to HSE standard terms and conditions. As in normal purchasing arrangements, if quality issues are identified, then the HSE engages with the Supplier to agree a solution, e.g take back unacceptable goods and refund HSE or supply HSE with a suitable alternative subject to prior QA approval. In relation to the products supplied by our primary PPE supplier in China in March and April 2020, one product accounting for 4% of the total value of the first batch of PPE received from China, was classified on receipt for alternative use. This product was re-purposed for use in other Government Departments via our colleagues in the Office Government Procurement and the HSE was refunded for the value of the stock.

To date there has been no occasion where the HSE has had to write off the cost of PPE due to the products being below standard.

Please find attached spreadsheet which indicates the value attributed to the "below standard" Covid equipment (ventilators).

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2688 or via ohop@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

