



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

21st October 2021

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 49032 21: *To ask the Minister for Health the gross sum of in-patient charges charged by the HSE across all hospitals in 2020.*

PQ 49033 21: *To ask the Minister for Health the total sum of in-patient charges successfully collected by the HSE across all hospitals in 2020.*

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. Your PQs above have been referred to me for response.

Patients who attend at public hospitals are, depending on their eligibility, and subject to certain exemptions, liable to statutory charges. Inpatient charges are raised in line with Section 52 and 55 of the Health Act 1970. The charge for inpatient/day services is €80 per day up to a maximum of €800 in a rolling 12 month period regardless of how many public hospitals you are admitted to in that period. The HSE has a statutory obligation to levy and collect these charges and Hospitals have the discretion to operate payment plans where appropriate. Medical card holders and certain other groups are exempt from these charges. Exempt persons are outlined on the HSE website - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/patient-care/hospital-charges>.

The amount of HSE inpatient charges income for the year ended 31st December 2020 is available from the 2020 HSE Annual Financial Statements. This information is available from the HSE website at the following link <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/annualrpts.html>, with all HSE Annual Reports and Financial Statements listed from 2005 to 2020. Patient Income is disclosed in Note 4 to the Financial Statements.

As disclosed in Note 4 to the HSE Annual Financial Statements 2020, HSE Inpatient Charges income was €20.597m in the year 2020 comprising both Acute Hospitals and Community services and is for HSE Statutory Services only. If you are seeking data relating to voluntary entities, you should submit FOI requests to these directly as publicly funded voluntary hospitals are separate entities for FOI purposes. Contact details for voluntary hospitals are available at <http://foi.gov.ie/voluntary-hospitals/>.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound effect on activity in public hospitals in 2020. At times during the year 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 2020.

In response to your PQ 49033 21 above, inpatient charges recorded as received during the year 2020 was €17.429m.

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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