



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

5th November 2021

Deputy David Cullinane TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 51775 21: *To ask the Minister for Health the total value of consultancy costs for his Department and the HSE in the year to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 PQ above has been referred to me for response.

In compliance with the stipulations of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (“the Code”), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016, the HSE discloses the total Consultancy costs charged to Income and Expenditure in Appendix 2 to the HSE Annual Financial Statements (AFS). In order to meet this disclosure requirement, an extensive exercise, involving manual collation from numerous ledger systems and analysis of the data, is completed annually as part of the AFS process. The latest consultancy costs available are contained in the 2020 HSE Annual Financial Statements.

These can be accessed from the HSE website at the following link:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/corporate/annualrpts.html> with Appendix 2 located at page 189 of the Report.

Consultancy costs include costs of external expert analysis and advice to management which contributes to decision making or policy direction. It excludes outsourced ‘business as usual’ functions.

I regret to inform you that the data requested for year to date 2021 is not readily available from the HSE Finance ledgers. As stated above, due to the extensive nature of the collation exercise, along with the fact that there are still currently numerous ledger systems in operation in the HSE, the process is completed on an annual basis only.

The shortcomings in the HSE legacy financial systems are well acknowledged and their replacement by a single standard financial system for the Health Sector is at the core of the Finance Reform programme initiated by the Department of Health.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

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