



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Gheamhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

**PQ 44773/121 RE: The amount of food that is wasted and or thrown out by hospitals in each of the years 2016 to 2020 and to date in 2021**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

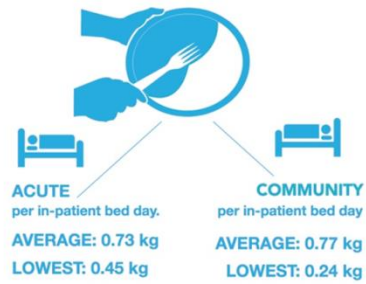
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have been advised by the National Health Sustainability Office that the total amount of food waste generated by hospitals is measured as tonnes per year, please see the below table.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (Jan - Aug)
Estimate Food Waste Tonnes /Annum	5,401	5,609	5,800	5,682	3,785

I understand that the HSE's Green Healthcare programme has surveyed food waste in more than 30 (Acute and Community Health) Hospitals. The food waste surveys identify the types and quantities of food waste generated by Acute and Community Health Hospitals. The Green Healthcare programme

estimate, based on food waste surveys that between 37% and 49% of food prepared for patients is not eaten.



The HSE's Green Healthcare food waste surveys identify opportunities for food waste prevention. The Green Healthcare programme has developed best practice food waste prevention guidance specifically for Hospital Catering Managers. In 2021, this best practice guidance has been converted to online food waste prevention training for Hospital Catering Managers and their staff. See below link to the Green Healthcare programme food waste prevention guidance. <https://greenhealthcare.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Best-Practice-Food-Waste-revised.pdf>

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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**Carol Ivory**  
**General Manager,**  
**Acute Operations**