



Office of the National Director of Procurement  
Health Business Services  
Health Service Executive  
Dr. Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8  
D08 W2A8



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Soláthair  
Seirbhísí Gnó Sláinte  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Atha Clíath 8  
D08 W2A8

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Deputy Peadar Tóibín,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

01/10/2021

## RE PQ 46720/21

### Question

To ask the Minister for Health the total amount which the State spent on personal protective equipment which either never arrived or was not fit for use when it arrived; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Peadar Tóibín

### Response

Deputy Peadar Tóibín,

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.

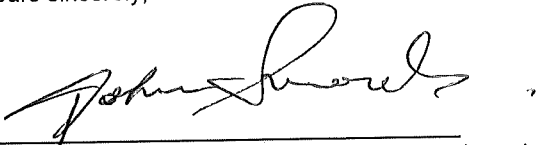
The challenge Ireland faced in sourcing PPE in the early stages of Covid-19 in an exceptionally competitive and highly volatile global market was unprecedented. During 2020 the HSE placed orders for approx. €920m worth of products in response to the Covid-19 outbreak and all orders have been fulfilled or cancelled at no cost to the HSE. The stock in quarantine is valued at €9.644m.

From the first batch of products received from the HSE's primary supplier in China, one product accounting for 4% of the total value of the first batch, was classified for alternative use. This product was subsequently transferred to the Office of Government Procurement for use in the wider public service with full credit arrangements agreed. The value of the masks which were re-purposed to the OGP was €1.26m. All other products received from the primary supplier in China met the relevant specification and all products have been put into use as intended.

In line with HSE policy, any quality issues that emerge from other suppliers continue to be resolved as they occur in conjunction with the relevant supplier and regulatory authorities where applicable. At present the HSE is holding 5 product brands which meet the WHO specification, but for which the HSE is awaiting the outcome of ongoing discussions between the Dept of Agriculture and the supplier in relation to Biocidal Registration. In the interim the product remains in quarantine with the intention that once the HSE are notified that the issues have been resolved the products will be put into use.

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](mailto:ohop@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,



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