



Office of the National Director of Procurement
Health Service Executive
Dr. Steevens' Hospital
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Soláthair
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Deputy Richard Bruton,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18/07/2022

RE PQ 34497/22

Question

To ask the Minister for Health if there has been much wastage or resale of items procured during the Covid emergency; if so, the type of items involved, that is, protective gear, medication, beds and equipment; the way that these items are being stored or disposed of; and whether there has been a review of the procurement approach for future learnings. -Richard Bruton

Response

Deputy Bruton,

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 HSE continues to manage the products purchased in response to the Covid emergency in accordance with national policies for centralised supply across the health service and maintenance of agreed contingency stocks in the event of a future pandemic. This has allowed the HSE to meet a number of surges in demand since the start of the pandemic and to manage wastage in a variety of means.

As an example, one product accounting for 4% of the total value of the first batch of PPE received from the HSE's primary supplier in 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.

The HSE has and continues to donate surplus and decommissioned equipment, pharmaceuticals and surplus PPE to less developed countries to meet humanitarian needs, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and, more recently, in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Donations present an opportunity for the HSE to show solidarity with countries in need and support Ireland's policy approach to address those 'furthest behind first' and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which is better health and well-being for all.

During 2021, the HSE donated the following items to Brazil, India, Nepal, Uganda and Lebanon, Ventilators €10 million, Vaccines €6.7 million and PPE €1 million. During 2022 January to June, the HSE donated the following items of excess stock to Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe and Ukraine; PPE €2.5 million, Pharmaceuticals €0.126 million, medical equipment and consumables €2.49 million while 3335 packs of Covid vaccines were donated to Uganda.

The HSE continues to explore at a national and EU level other opportunities for donation of excess Covid equipment and medications.

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,



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