



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
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.

20<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 11193/22** *To ask the Minister for Health the number of public patients which were treated privately outside of a public hospital for outpatient, diagnostics and inpatient appointments in each of the years 2018 to 2021, in tabular form relative to public hospital patient throughput; 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 Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

As part of the Government's response to Covid-19 the HSE put in place arrangements with private hospitals to support the public system in providing essential acute hospital services. The HSE agreed Heads of Terms with private hospitals for the provision of support to the public system in early 2020.

You will be aware that on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Government decided that the agreement with the Private Hospitals should be terminated on June 30<sup>th</sup> in line with the terms of the Heads of Terms. The Government further decided that the HSE should seek to agree, through immediate negotiation with the Private Hospitals, a new arrangement. A new Agreement came into effect in July 2020 which is known as the "Safety Net Agreement". A Safety Net Agreement is still in place with private providers which can be activated in line with COVID related triggers. In the context of the most recent COVID surge the Safety Net Agreement with private hospitals is active.

The information provided to the Deputy relates to the Agreements outlined above however it is recognised that individual hospitals may have specific local arrangements in place with private entities for service provision for which detailed information is not available centrally. The Deputy will also be aware that the National Treatment

Purchase Fund (NTPF) also purchases care directly from the private system and any data in this regard is held by them.

The 2020 figure relates to cases that fall under Safety Net 1. This is the period where all Private Hospital capacity was handed over to the HSE between April and June 2020. The date from January 2021 through to April 2022 are cases that have been seen through Safety Net 2- 4. Safety Net 2 gave the HSE 30% retained capacity within the Private Hospitals whereas Safety Net 3 worked to treat urgent unscheduled care on a reasonable endeavours basis.

Safety Net 4, which is currently in place is to treat urgent unscheduled care along with patients on the waiting list > 12 months.

It should be noted that a patient may have had a diagnostic scan and in a separate episode this same patient may have been treated as an inpatient or day case patient. As these are two separate episodes of care, both will be counted in the total.

In the context of the above I am attaching a summary table of the activity to date.

I trust that this answers your question.

Yours sincerely,



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**Robert Kidd**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Acute Operations**

### Number of Individual Patients treated in Private Hospitals

Year	Inpatient Cases	Day case Cases	Outpatient Cases	Diagnostics Cases	Total
2020	13,300	54,500	52,300	85,900	206,000
2021	8,900	13,100	600	7,400	30,000
2022 (Up to 7 <sup>th</sup> April)	2,300	4,200	50	1,200	7,750
<b>Total</b>	24,500	71,800	52,950	94,500	243,750