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25th March 2022

Re. PQ 12857/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide estimates of the cost of cancer care, including screening and treatment to the HSE each year since 2016; if he will provide a breakdown of the costs of screening, diagnostics, medicines, inpatient and outpatient hospital days, primary and accident and emergency care; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is part of the corporate HSE structure. Expenditure related to cancer patients on diagnostics, medicines, hospital inpatient and outpatient stays, emergency care and primary care is included within the expenditure on those areas in Acute Care and in Primary Care.

https://www.hpo.ie/latest_hipe_nprs_reports/HIPE_2020/HIPE_Report_2020.pdf

The expenditure by the NCCP in 2021 towards cancer care was approx. €119m. This expenditure is directed to cancer services in acute hospitals such as surgical oncology, radiotherapy, systemic therapy, rapid access clinics, psycho-oncology, survivorship services and to cancer awareness, prevention and support measures in the community.

The level of expenditure on cancer care has progressively increased since 2016. The expenditure by the NCCP does not include all expenditure on drugs for cancer treatment, the bulk of which is carried within the Drugs expenditure via PCRS.

Yours sincerely



Professor Risteárd Ó Laoide
National Director
National Cancer Control Programme