



Health Service Executive
Baile Átha Cliath & Lár Laighin
Dublin Mid-Leinster
Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise
Co Laois

Telephone: (057) 86 21364
Fax: (057) 86 22986

Deputy David Cullinane TD
Dail Eireann
Dublin

13th April 2022.

Re: PQ-17069/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the amount recovered through the use of debt collectors and or debt collection agencies in respect of the collection of fees and charges on patients attending hospital groups managed by Portlaoise Hospital in each of the years 2017 to 2021, in tabular form; 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.

The details of the response are set out in tabular format here:

Details	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
LCMS EFT	81,841.70	74,775.10	103,936.00	91,940.70	63,001.70	415,495.20

Patients who attend at public hospitals are, depending on their eligibility, and subject to certain exemptions, liable to statutory charges. These are levied under the provisions of the 1970 Health Act. The charges are €100 for an Emergency Department attendance and €80 for an overnight stay, the latter charge is capped at €800 in any 12 month period. The HSE has a statutory obligation to levy and collect these charges and Hospitals have the discretion to operate payment plans where appropriate.

Further information on Hospital Charges is available on the HSE website at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/patient-care/hospital-charges>

HSE policy and procedures for debt collection are covered by NFR 25 (National Financial Regulations) which is available to view on the HSE website on the link below: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/financial%20regulations/nfr25.pdf> Hospitals are required, under NFR 25, to refer an unpaid debt to a collection agency after a period of time from date of billing.

If any patient has difficulty paying a hospital bill the regulations allow for the hospital and the patient to agree an instalment arrangement. The Hospital has pathways available to patients should they have difficulty in this regard.

The HSE seeks to maximize the recovery of income in a socially responsible, ethical, efficient and cost effective way.

I trust that the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours Sincerely,



Michael Knowles
General Manager