

CC/DC/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

11th April 2022

Mr David Cullinane TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 17085/22

*** 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 Limerick University Hospital in each of the years 2017 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane**

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 collection of debt owed to UL Hospitals Group is a routine process applied to all outstanding debt. We seek to maximise the recovery of income in a socially responsible, ethical, efficient and cost effective way, in line with national financial regulations.

In line with national policy, UL Hospitals Group encourages service users who have difficulties paying a debt to make contact with us, so that we can work with them to put in place a payment plan that ensures the situation will not go to debt collection stage.

UL Hospitals Group utilises the services of a collection agency only for debts that remain unpaid within six weeks of the initial bill, and for which there is no payment plan in place.

Please see below a breakdown of the amount recovered through the use of debt collection agencies between 2017 and 2021 at UL Hospitals Group.

Year	Amount recovered per Annum
2017	€185,694
2018	€258,895
2019	€254,533
2020	€267,680
2021	€170,430



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I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Prof Colette Cowan'.

Prof Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group