



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibriochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
Átha Cliath 8, D08 NN9V

Office of the National Director
Acute Operations

Unit 4a, the Dargan Building, Heuston
South Quarter, Military Road,
Kilmainham, Dublin 8, D08 NN9V

www.hse.ie
@hselive

t 01 795 9972
e acutehospitals@hse.ie

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

4th January 2023

PQ 57785/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals made to a company (details supplied: EHF29 Insourcing/EHF29 Ltd) regarding gastrointestinal scopes; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 57786/22 - To ask the Minister for Health the volume of outsourcing provided to a company (details supplied: EHF29 Insourcing/EHF29 Ltd)); and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Acute Operations have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position as provided by each Hospital Group.

Hospital Group	Response
Childrens Health Ireland	<p>1. Children's Health Ireland has not transferred any referrals to the company noted in this question for management of gastrointestinal scopes.</p> <p>2. Children's Health Ireland (CHI) regrets any long wait a patient and their family has for an outpatient or in-patient/day case procedure. CHI is committed to reducing waiting lists and supporting initiatives that ensure that children receive care appropriately and in a timely manner.</p> <p>CHI have secured approval for funding through the SlainteCare stream to assist us in progressing initiatives that will go towards reducing these wait times for our patients and move towards achieving the current national maximum wait time targets (18 months for OPD and 12 months for IPDC including GI Scopes).</p> <p>CHI have not outsourced any patients for treatment to the company noted in this question.</p>
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	<p>DMHG have confirmed that they do not use this company for outsourcing or insourcing gastrointestinal scopes.</p>
Ireland East Hospital Group	<p>In late 2021, the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) engaged in the Tender process to help address and manage waiting lists for Endoscopy. This process was done under the HSE's Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and funded through the Scheduled Care</p>



	<p>Transformation Programme in association with SlainteCare,</p> <p>In 2022 IEHG appointed EHF 29 Insourcing via the tender process to provide additional Endoscopy services in order to meet the increased demand for this service which was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their appointment has had a positive impact by decreasing waiting lists in Regional Hospital Mullingar. These services will be commencing in Wexford General Hospital where we hope to see a similar decrease in waiting lists for our patients.</p> <p>EHF 29 Insourcing must adhere to all HSE Guidelines and Policies and are under the governance of the Ireland East Hospital Group along with the Clinical Directors of Regional Hospital Mullingar and Wexford General Hospital.</p>
<p>RCSI Hospital Group</p>	<p>RCSI have advised that this is not applicable.</p>
<p>Saolta Hospital Group</p>	<p>1. The Saolta Group have not sent any referrals to EHF29 for gastrointestinal scopes as they did not win the tender for this service.</p> <p>2. EHF29 have supported both GUH and LUH to see a backlog of Symptomatic Breast Triple Assessment patients which built up during COVID 19 surges and was further compounded by the loss in capacity from the cyber-attack. Funding has been approved for 1500 patients to be seen across both sites. Year to date almost 1000 patients have been seen through this initiative.</p>
<p>South/Southwest Hospital Group</p>	<p>The hospitals in the South/South West Hospital Group which have used this company to include their responses:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Hospital Waterford (UHW) • Bantry General Hospital (BGH) • Cork University Hospital (CUH) <p>UHW PQ Ref 57785/22 To ask the Minister for Health the volume of outsourcing provided to a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. UHW have confirmed that they used this company (EHF29 Limited) for 2 sessions of insourced endoscopy procedures in April 2022. Facilities in UHW were utilised along with UHW staff. In total, 24 patients were treated.</p> <p>PQ Ref 57786/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals made to a company (details supplied) regarding gastrointestinal scopes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. UHW have confirmed they used this company (EHF29 Limited) for 2 sessions of insourced endoscopy procedures in April 2022. Facilities in UHW were utilised along with UHW staff. In total, 24 patients were treated</p>



	<p>BGH PQ Ref 57785/22 To ask the Minister for Health the volume of outsourcing provided to a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. Where BGH utilises outsourcing initiative – this is managed via the Bon Secours & Mater Private Hospitals.</p> <p>PQ Ref 57786/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals made to a company (details supplied) regarding gastrointestinal scopes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. BGH has referred a total of 90 gastrointestinal scopes via EHF29 Insourcing.</p> <p>CUH PQ Ref 57785/22 To ask the Minister for Health the volume of outsourcing provided to a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. CUH has advised that they used this company for various initiatives to include Endoscopy 443 patients and clinics to include breast ultrasound, mammography and paediatrics.</p> <p>PQ Ref 57786/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of referrals made to a company (details supplied) regarding gastrointestinal scopes; and if he will make a statement on the matter. CUH has advised that approximately 443 gastrointestinal scopes to date in 2022 have been referred to this company</p>
<p>University of Limerick Hospital Group</p>	<p>Two initiatives, which utilise EHF29 Ltd, are currently running within UL Hospitals Group.</p> <p>One initiative, supported by the National Cancer Control Programme, provides OPD and Radiology Services for the Breast Unit at UHL. Under this initiative, 2,334 Ultrasounds/Mammograms have taken place and 835 patients have been seen in the Breast Unit.</p> <p>Separately, there is an Endoscopy initiative, under this initiative 374 endoscopies have taken place.</p>



I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nessa Lynch', written over a horizontal line.

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations