

CC/JG/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

21st September 2022

Mr Johnny Guirke TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 42136/22, PQ 42137/22, PQ 42138/22

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 for inpatient and day services on patients attending hospitals managed by University Limerick Hospitals Group in each of the years 2015 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Johnny Guirke

To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by the HSE in contracting debt collection agencies to pursue unpaid fees and charges from inpatient and day services from those attending hospitals managed by University Limerick Hospitals Group in each of the years 2015 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 for inpatient and day services on patients attending hospitals managed by University Limerick Hospitals Group in each of the years 2015 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The Health Service Executive has 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.

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 for a breakdown of the amounts recovered through the use of debt collection agencies between 2015 and 2021 at UL Hospitals Group. Also included below is the amount spent by UL Hospitals Group on debt collection agencies.

Year	Amt Referred per Annum	Amount Recovered per Annum	Fees paid per Annum to 3rd Party Debt Collector (exc VAT)
2015	€982,963	€260,895	€37,758
2016	€1,870,219	€192,458	€35,987
2017	€952,218	€185,694	€36,014
2018	€843,518	€258,895	€36,906
2019	€1,198,816	€254,533	€37,020
2020	€925,640	€267,680	€32,122
2021	€753,429	€170,430	€20,452



Working together, caring for you

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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