



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

OFFICE OF THE CEO  
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP  
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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Deputy Johnny Guirke,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

PQ Ref: 42140/22

*\* 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 South/South West Hospital Group in each of the years 2015 to 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter\**

- Deputy Johnny Guirke

Dear Deputy Guirke,

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. We have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Please note the following table outlines the amount spent in contracting debt collection agencies to pursue unpaid fees/charges for both in-patient and day services for patients attending hospitals in the South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG) 2015 to 2021.

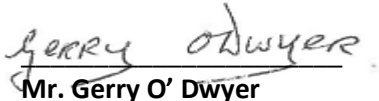
Amount Spent Contracting Debt Collection Agencies								
HOSPITAL	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
Mallow General Hospital	€345	€30	€70	€796	€71	€5,802	€2,510	€9,625
Cork University Hospital	€25,043	€31,226	€24,056	€31,776	€29,738	€22,786	€19,524	€184,149
Cork University Maternity Hospital	€3,506	€4,305	€2,692	€2,258	€2,988	€3,078	€1,706	€20,533
South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital	€17,879	€366	€3,592	€172	€5,536	€18,357	€1,444	€47,346
Mercy University Hospital	€19,819	€20,474	€22,040	€29,993	€34,614	€23,698	€17,950	€168,588
University Hospital Waterford	€54,449	€62,159	€34,618	€31,446	€46,236	€33,980	€32,201	€295,089
University Hospital Kerry	-	-	€1,629	€1,675	€2,707	€7,504	€22,021	€35,535
Tipperary University Hospital	€22,889	€20,657	€12,604	€11,831	€16,230	€7,344	€5,432	€96,987
Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital	€310	€276	€281	€299	€432	€410	€313	€2,321

University Hospital Kerry were unable to provide data for 2015 and 2016 as they changed to a new system in 2016.

Of note, Bantry General Hospital which also comes under the remit of the South/South West Hospital Group, does not procure Debt Collection Agency services at this time.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gerry O'Dwyer in black ink, written in a cursive style.

**Mr. Gerry O' Dwyer**  
**CEO,**  
**South/South West Hospital Group**

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