



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



OFFICE OF THE CEO
SOUTH / SOUTH WEST HOSPITAL GROUP
ERINVILLE
WESTERN ROAD
CORK
Tel: 021 – 4921509
T12 EDK0

22nd September 2022

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

PQ Ref: 42141/22

****To ask the Minister for Health the number of inpatients or inpatient day cases attending hospitals managed by South/South West Hospital Group with unpaid fees and charges for inpatient and day services whose debt was referred to a debt collection agency in each of the years 2015 to 2021, in tabular form*.***

- 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 number of debts referred to a debt collection agency in relation to unpaid fees/charges for both in-patient and day services for patients attending hospitals in the South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG) for 2015 – 2021:-

Number of Unpaid Fees for In-Patients/Day Cases with Debts Referred to Debt Collection Agencies								
HOSPITAL	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOTAL
Mallow General Hospital	66	176	-	177	-	142	201	762
Mallow General Hospital Local Injuries Unit	-	-	-	157	-	1118	147	1422
Cork University Hospital	3505	2497	2381	2579	2535	2176	2412	18085
Cork University Maternity Hospital	152	102	123	129	156	101	126	889
Mercy University Hospital	297	441	508	590	688	524	536	3584
South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital	2206	-	741	-	980	2578	47	6552
University Hospital Kerry	-	-	214	172	202	1000	1599	3187
University Hospital Waterford	3581	3462	3645	3259	4596	3076	3170	24789
Tipperary University Hospital	1433	1624	1053	1550	2021	1356	824	9861
Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital	39	47	41	38	36	32	50	283

Mallow General Hospital have advised that pre 2018, debt collection for Mallow General Hospital Local Injuries Unit was an internal function within the hospital and debt collection agencies were not used.

The hospital engaged with Debt Collection Agencies for the Local Injuries Unit in 2020 and retrieved invoices for years 2018, 2019 and 2020. Thus 2020 had a higher number representing cumulative figures for earlier invoices. Some invoices were also allocated to 2018 in this process.

Specific figures for 2019 for both in-patient and day services were unavailable due to a process issue.

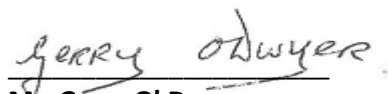
South Infirmary/Victoria University Hospital were unable to provide data for 2016 and 2018 as debt collection was only being used sporadically with regular engagement taking place from 2019 onwards.

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 SSWHG 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,



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

E-mail ceo.sswhg@hse.ie