



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Caipiteal agus Eastáit
Ospidéal Sir Patrick Dun, Sráid na Canálach Móire
Íocht, Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 P667
T: 01-6424747

Office of the National Director Capital & Estates
Sir Patrick Dun's, Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2

9th September 2022

Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 44230/22: *To ask the Minister for Health the steps that are being taken by public hospitals to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to increase their energy efficiency, and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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 HSE is committed to becoming a sustainable organisation, delivering low carbon, quality sustainable healthcare into the future. This is with the purpose of preserving natural resources, reducing carbon emissions, mitigating the effects of climate change and safeguarding high quality patient care. As one of the largest public sector energy users, the HSE is leading and acting as an exemplar in emissions reduction, climate action, and the mitigation of adverse health effects of climate change.

The Climate Action and Sustainability Office of the HSE has initiated a number of programmes and projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency across the healthcare estate. Specific actions include:

- Continuing the established partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), who fund the progression of the energy efficiency agenda.
- Continuing support and operation for the Capital and Estates led regional energy bureaux and the network of energy and green teams. These teams support and manage behavioural change; energy related training; staff workshops and energy shallow retrofit programmes. The shallow retrofit programme advances engineering works such as LED lighting upgrades, window and insulation upgrades, heat pump installations, improved control systems, building management systems, meter improvements, pump upgrades and photovoltaic installations.

- Continuing the implementation of an energy efficient design and towards carbon zero design for all capital works, to ensure that all new buildings are designed to be carbon zero ready and carbon zero in use, once the electricity grid decarbonises.
- Completing the pilot pathfinder programme, commenced in partnership with SEAI to examine how to reduce emissions associated with existing buildings. This will include building energy fabric upgrades and replacing fossil fuels with renewables. Once this pilot is complete across a sample of the poorest quality facilities, the findings will be extrapolated and the initiative scaled up to a major deep energy and carbon retrofit for the healthcare estate.
- Maintaining the approach to improved metered data and utility supplier data, including integration of utility meters with the new national estate information system. Improved reporting systems will also be developed and aligned with the HSE intent to transition to the ISO 50001 energy management system.
- Developing enhanced guidance in the areas of energy efficiency, carbon reduction, waste prevention and water conservation through the HSE green healthcare programme, including an online healthcare sustainability assessment tool that has been developed for use by all medium and smaller energy users.

In 2022 and beyond, HSE Capital and Estates will continue to play a pivotal role in supporting the wider programme of activities across the HSE to reduce carbon consumption in line with Government targets for 2030 and 2050.

Yours sincerely,



Paul de Freine
National Director,
Capital & Estates