

21st April, 2023

Mr. Sean Sherlock, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 18151/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the amount of Exchequer funding that has been allocated to an organisation (details supplied) for 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form."**

**Detail Supplied: "I wish to know how much exchequer funding has been granted to SouthDoc (out of hours GP service) with a breakdown of those disbursements and a note on who represents the interest of the taxpayer at board level on SouthDoc.**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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.

South West Doctors on Call Limited is an Out of Hours Family Doctor service for urgent medical care in Counties Cork and Kerry with its administrative headquarters and call centre in Killarney, Co Kerry. It has a membership of over 500 GPs and a network of 26 treatment centres of which eight are overnight and supported by a fleet of 19 vehicles, which are fully equipped for home visit situations.

SouthDoc provides a medical service to a population of approximately 736,000 in addition to the 3.3M visitors to the area, and dealt with over 231,000 patient contacts in 2022.

SouthDoc, like all agencies funded by the HSE through a Section 39 Service Arrangement (SA), provide services to the HSE based on the terms agreed within the SA which are agreed on an annual basis. The SA sets out the terms of engagement between the HSE and the agency (Part 1 of SA documentation), which is recognised as the 'Provider' of services, and the quantum of services to be delivered by the Provider and the funding which the HSE will pay to the Provider for provision of such services (Part 2 of the SA documentation). The SA documents clearly identify the Provider as a separate organisation/agency to the HSE and that it operates as a separate governable entity which can 'be construed so as to include any company, corporation or other body corporate, wherever and however incorporated or established' (Section 1.2 of SA Part 1) and as such the HSE does not engage in the governance / management of the provider.

Within the terms of Part 2 of the SA documentation the provision of the Providers financial information is clearly stated (regularity based on the level of funding paid by the HSE to the Provider) (Schedule 4 - Performance Management Part 2 of SA documentation) with the financial information reviewed by HSE Finance staff when received from the organisation. Through Schedule 4 – Performance Management in Part 2 of the SA documentation the requirement to hold 'Review Meetings' is clearly outlined with the review of financial performance of the provider forming a key part of these meetings (Section 13 – Review Process – Part 1 of SA documentation).

The specific requirements which are referenced above are set out within the SA documentation (i.e. regularity of meetings and submission of financial information) signed between the HSE and SouthDoc.

As a service provider funded by the HSE pursuant to Section 39 of the Health Act 2004 South West Doctors on Call Company Limited by Guarantee receives an annual funding allocation for the provision of the above out of hours service.

**The annual funding allocation provided by the HSE to SouthDoc for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 YTD is as follows:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Allocation €</b>
2021	€7,513,800
2022	€7,513,800
2023 YTD	€2,143,623

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**