



**Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
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14<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Deputy David Cullinane TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 35095 23:** *To ask the Minister for Health to outline all legal costs incurred by his Department and the HSE for the years 2018 to 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see the table in Appendix 1 below which shows the total HSE legal costs for the years 2018 to 2022.

The data was sourced from the HSE Annual Financial Statements data for each year and is for HSE Statutory services only. For data relating to voluntary entities, you should submit requests to these directly.

HSE legal expenditure occurs under four main categories; Healthcare, Commercial & Corporate, Employment, and Property. Healthcare spend relates to legal cases arising in Community and Acute Hospitals settings dealing with Disabilities, wardship/ assisted decision making, older persons, mental health etc. Commercial and Corporate includes for example contractual matters, procurement, data protection matters. Employment includes WRC hearings and court proceedings, HR investigations, pensions and salaries and Property includes acquisition and disposal of property, leases and wayleaves.

In 2021 the number of active legal matters was 2,071 and in 2022 this was 2,428.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sarah.anderson1@hse.ie](mailto:sarah.anderson1@hse.ie) or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson  
General Manager HSE Corporate Finance  
HSE National Finance Division  
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### Appendix 1 to PQ 35095 23

HSE Legal Costs for the years 2018 to 2022 <i>HSE Statutory Services only</i>	2018 €m	2019 €m	2020 €m	2021 €m	2022 €m
Legal Costs	23.691	19.643	23.464	23.308	28.439
<i>Source: HSE Annual Financial Statements (AFS) - Included in AFS Note B Non Pay Expenditure, Office &amp; Administration Expenses, Legal &amp; Professional Fees</i>					
<i>Notes: Costs in relation to on-going matters involving other State bodies are not included in these legal costs</i>					
<i>Additional legal costs and settlements were paid by the HSE's Insurance Company</i>					
<i>Note 11 of the AFS discloses the costs and future liabilities in relation to claims processed by the State Claims Agency under the terms of the Clinical Indemnity Scheme</i>					