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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Sláinte Poiblí

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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

08<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Deputy Smith  
Dáil Éireann,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 37093/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the cost of the flu vaccine programme in 2022 and 2023, respectively; how many doses are expected to be provided in 2023 and 2024; how many doses the State ordered; the estimated cost to provide the flu vaccine free to all; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith**

Dear Deputy Smith

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The cost of the flu programme in 2022/23 was €55.5m. The HSE expects to receive 1.85m doses of flu vaccine to support this season's vaccination programme.

The flu vaccine will be available for free to all those eligible to receive the vaccine as costed above. More information will be available from [www.hse.ie/flu](http://www.hse.ie/flu) when the programme launches in late autumn in line with previous seasons.

The HSE implements programmes on behalf of the Department of Health in line with immunisation policy.

The Department of Health has advised the HSE to provide the flu vaccine without charge for all those eligible to receive the vaccine in 2023/2024. The HSE is currently operationalising the flu programme as per the immunisation policy and cost estimates will follow.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr John Cuddihy**

**National Director of Public Health**

**MCRN: 16227**