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**Date 06/03/2023**

**Re: PQ11500/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will take action regarding the level of single-use plastic in Ireland’s healthcare system; if any review of this has been carried out by his Department; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

To whom it may concern,

In reference to the above PQ the Health Service Executive (HSE) recognises that it has a significant role to play in tackling the climate crisis by dealing with the growing health impacts of climate change and curbing its own emissions. As Ireland’s largest Public Body with a core objective to “*use the resources available to it...to improve, promote and protect the health and welfare of the public*”, we have a duty to address climate change. Over the coming weeks we will publish our HSE Climate Action Strategy (2022-2050) that focuses on reducing our carbon emissions, promoting low-carbon and sustainable solutions which will help limit pollution, reverse biodiversity loss, and support, and protect the health and well-being of future generations which includes adapting to the impacts of climate change.

As part of this Strategy, consideration will be given to the use of all single-use plastics in all aspects of HSE services e.g. Clinical use (where appropriate), HSE-operated canteens and other food service outlets. Baselineing, framework development and action plans will be produced regarding this in 2023. Previous guidance for the [removal of single use cups, cutlery and straws for the HSE and organisations funded by the HSE](#) was developed in 2019 and this will be incorporated and updated into any future waste management and procurement frameworks and corresponding implementation plans. Other waste management considerations include, but are not limited to, minimising food waste generation, increasing recycling and reducing the amount of clinical waste generated.

If you have any further queries in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Crowley', written over a horizontal line.

**Dr. Philip Crowley,  
National Director, Strategy and Research.**

