



23rd May 2023

Deputy Colm Burke TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 21982/23: To ask the Minister for Health the reason the increase in the cost of nursing home beds is 10% higher in 2023 compared to 2022, and in view of the fact that private nursing home beds are only 3% higher between 2022 and 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The Cost of Care at public Nursing Homes/community Nursing Units is calculated, currently annually, by the HSE and implemented as part of the funding process for Public Units under the NHSS Act 2009.

The paid cost of care per bed per week for 2023 is €1,844, increased from €1,698 in 2022.

The cost of care was set at the 2022 paid rate, plus 2023 funded pay awards as part of the increase in rates of pay for public sector staff agreed as part of National pay deals. These funded pay awards are therefore the single driver of increased cost 2022 vs. 2023, resulting in an average increase of €145 in the paid cost per bed per week.

These costs apply to the operating costs of providing care in these centres as allowed for under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act.

It is acknowledged that there are variations in the cost of care across public centres as well as across private nursing homes, with public nursing homes generally having a higher cost of care.

A number of factors contribute to these higher costs including;

- The statutory leave entitlements available to staff at public Nursing Homes, as well as the rate of pay within consolidated pay scales;



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- Reductions in the number of long-stay public beds to comply with health and safety, fire regulations and HIQA compliance with residential care standards, while fixed costs such as lighting, heating, maintenance costs have increased; &
- Public Nursing Homes generally have higher nurse and other staffing ratios in place than private nursing homes.

It is important to note that this cost does not relate to the amount a person will pay towards their care under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Fair Deal). A client contribution is calculated for each client based on the value of their assets and income at time of NHSS application. This calculation is computed as per the detailed requirements of the NHSS Act 2009.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Patricia Whelehan,

Assistant National Director - Community Operations,

Services for Older People.



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