



Pádraig O'Sullivan, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th July 2024

PQ: 30105/24

To ask the Minister for Health to outline the details of the service level agreement between the HSE and the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig O'Sullivan

Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 30105/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In 2023 Mazars published a report which examined the governance arrangements around the HSE's drug reimbursement process. The report detailed a number of high-level recommendations seeking to improve the current governance arrangements within the process, including the recommendation that a service level agreement (SLA) between the HSE and the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPE) should be put in place.

An Implementation Working Group led by the Department of Health was established to consider in greater depth the progression of various recommendations arising from this report. The membership of the Group includes representatives of the Drugs Group, the HSE, the NCPE, and the Department of Health.

At present, an SLA between the HSE and the NCPE is currently under development. This has been delayed by the loss of experienced staff who left the HSE to take up promotional opportunities.

Pending the completion of the SLA process, each body of work required of the NCPE by the HSE (whether a rapid review or a full health technology assessment) is individually commissioned by the HSE under the legislative framework of the Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Act 2013 and / or the national framework agreements in place between the State and the various components of the Pharmaceutical Industry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service