| | Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais | Office of Chief Financial Officer | www.hse.ie @hselive |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhise Sláinte, | Health Service Executive, | **t** 01 6352542 |
| | Seomra 125, Ospidéal Dr. Steevens, | Room 125, Dr Steevens Hospital, | **e** cfo@hse.ie |
| | BÁC 8, D08 W2A8 | Dublin 8, D08 W2A8 | |

13th August 2025

Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 41117 25:** *To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid by each hospital in the State to debt collectors over the past decade; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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 **Appendix 1 Table 1** below which shows the total debt collection costs for HSE Statutory hospitals for the years 2013 to 2022 with a breakdown by acute hospital. The data was sourced from the HSE Regional Finance ledger systems and is for HSE Statutory services only. The data is not readily available from the HSE finance systems however annual data up to 2022 has previously been extracted by each regional finance unit. Data is not readily available for the years 2023, 2024 or to date 2025.

The HSE policy and procedures for debt collection are covered by NFR B-2 (National Financial Regulations) which is available to view on the HSE website using the following link: nfrb2.pdf (hse.ie)

With effect from 17th April 2023 there are no hospital charges for public inpatient care or day service care, with the removal of these charges announced as part of Budget 2023. Inpatient and day service charges still apply for inpatient and day service care up to and including 16th April 2023. Patients who attend at public hospitals are, depending on their eligibility and subject to certain exemptions, liable to statutory charges levied under the provisions of the 1970 Health Act. The charges are €100 for an Emergency Department attendance and, prior to its abolition on 17th April 2023, €80 for an Inpatient/Day Services charge, with the latter charge capped at €800 in a rolling 12 month period. The HSE has a statutory obligation to levy and collect these charges and Hospitals have the discretion to operate instalment payment plans where appropriate. Any debt incurred prior to the abolition of the statutory inpatient charge is subject to the normal financial regulations.

Debt collection continues to be managed at a local hospital level. Hospitals are required, under NFR B-2, to refer an unpaid debt to a collection agency after a period of time from date of billing. If any patient has difficulty paying a hospital bill the regulations allow for the hospital and the patient to agree an instalment arrangement. We would advise they contact their hospital directly to discuss this on a one to one basis. Hospitals are mindful in implementing these processes that patients may be experiencing stress and/or financial challenges and encourage patients who are having difficulties fulfilling their debt to make contact with the hospital to which the debt is owed in order to make alternative payment arrangements. If hospitals are made

aware or become aware of such challenges, agreements may be reached between the patient and hospital on a case by case basis and debt collectors are not included in the process.

The HSE seeks to maximise the recovery of income in a socially responsible, ethical, efficient and cost effective way. It should be noted that the collection of monies owed is a continuous, daily and large scale process.

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**
**Bainisteoir Ginearálta | General Manager**
HSE Airgeadais Corparáideach, An Rannóg Airgeadais Náisiúnta agus Soláthair HSE
Teach Darach, Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara, W91 KDC2.
HSE Corporate Finance, HSE National Finance & Procurement Division
Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 KDC2.
E: sarah.anderson1@hse.ie
T: 087 9423319

**Appendix 1 to PQ 41117 25**

## Table 1

| HSE Debt Collection costs for the Acute Hospitals Division Only for the years 2013 to 2022 by Acute Hospital | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *For HSE Statutory Services only* | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Acute Hospital Name** | **2013 €** | **2014 €** | **2015 €** | **2016 €** | **2017 €** | **2018 €** | **2019 €** | **2020 €** | **2021 €** | **2022 €** | **Total €** |
| Cavan General Hospital | 5,229 | 13,199 | 19,770 | 17,657 | 24,512 | 29,613 | 19,608 | 8,543 | 10,674 | 28,598 | 177,403 |
| Connolly Hospital | 39,286 | 35,582 | 38,578 | 53,079 | 41,651 | 37,871 | 45,018 | 32,094 | 51,667 | 48,794 | 423,621 |
| CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL | 84,359 | 84,317 | 83,389 | 85,355 | 86,889 | 99,488 | 107,461 | 99,784 | 102,104 | 120,789 | 953,935 |
| Croom Hospital | 2,639 | 3,008 | 5,324 | 1,668 | 881 | 877 | 1,076 | 2,327 | 1,609 | 1,849 | 21,259 |
| CUMH | | | | | | 324 | 2,950 | 3,389 | 1,893 | 805 | 9,360 |
| Ennis Hospital | 1,806 | 2,441 | 1,116 | 340 | 9,468 | 4,280 | 3,610 | 3,431 | 2,124 | 517 | 29,133 |
| KERRY GENERAL HOSPITAL | 5,326 | 3,116 | 2,935 | 3,916 | 1,629 | 1,791 | 2,707 | 6,749 | 22,218 | 6,441 | 56,829 |
| Kilcreene Hospital | 1,119 | 329 | 201 | 369 | 253 | 256 | 361 | 444 | 263 | 377 | 3,973 |
| Letterkenny University Hospital | 2,898 | 14,018 | 8,399 | 10,739 | 8,552 | 17,857 | 10,899 | 4,682 | 339 | 10,170 | 88,552 |
| Louth County Hospital | 2,227 | 3,665 | 4,582 | 6,353 | 7,423 | 6,899 | 6,999 | 3,534 | | | 41,682 |
| MALLOW GENERAL HOSPITAL | 193 | 589 | 345 | 30 | 70 | 796 | 65 | 5,802 | 2,010 | 93 | 9,993 |
| Mayo University Hospital | 14,526 | 43,117 | 20,291 | 21,024 | 35,166 | 27,135 | 50,042 | 32,200 | 13,579 | 12,504 | 269,583 |
| MRH MULLINGAR | 37,399 | 27,223 | 19,309 | 28,995 | 18,880 | 30,634 | 30,830 | 24,933 | 20,046 | 27,317 | 265,566 |
| MRH PORTLAOISE | 23,656 | 29,516 | 20,162 | 23,415 | 46,024 | 18,710 | 24,810 | 28,041 | 27,532 | 9,298 | 251,164 |
| MRH Tullamore | 30,017 | 29,546 | 27,911 | 39,594 | 23,996 | 27,196 | 32,396 | 27,314 | 65,937 | 39,069 | 342,975 |
| Naas General Hospital | 11,298 | 12,506 | 9,738 | 20,257 | 14,956 | 14,207 | 29,494 | 10,622 | 28,796 | 32,105 | 183,979 |
| Nenagh Hospital | 2,569 | 3,002 | 2,881 | 1,168 | 2,485 | 4,602 | 6,220 | 6,845 | | 2,101 | 31,872 |
| Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda | 16,245 | 40,004 | 42,324 | 32,815 | 41,958 | 34,032 | 52,635 | 10,987 | | 36,565 | 307,564 |
| Our Lady's Hospital Navan | 3,675 | 7,454 | 7,088 | 13,427 | 13,301 | 16,013 | 14,228 | 10,876 | 10,118 | 5,998 | 102,179 |
| Portiuncula Hospital | | | 16,641 | 25,208 | 19,896 | 18,097 | 23,667 | 5,447 | 2,666 | | 111,623 |
| Roscommon University Hospital | 381 | 1,865 | 1,201 | 461 | 302 | 2,822 | 1,996 | 540 | | 4,600 | 14,168 |
| Saotla HQ | | | | | | | | 73,800 | | | 73,800 |
| Sligo University Hospital | 6,910 | 6,019 | 11,480 | 2,143 | 2,999 | 9,016 | 14,964 | 12,150 | 683 | 459 | 66,823 |
| South Tipperary General Hospital | 8,461 | 14,208 | 19,333 | 16,674 | 8,959 | 7,972 | 15,982 | 7,342 | 6,206 | 14,759 | 119,897 |
| St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny | 5,752 | 6,585 | 8,600 | 10,217 | 18,861 | 14,032 | 16,835 | 13,455 | 8,429 | 16,695 | 119,462 |
| St. Columcille's Hospital | 13,659 | 8,079 | 5,345 | 7,237 | 10,541 | 7,253 | 4,577 | 6,009 | 3,411 | 5,844 | 71,954 |
| University Hospital Galway | 42,266 | 75,113 | 91,765 | 65,798 | 71,274 | 63,585 | 59,287 | 51,287 | 8,512 | | 528,886 |
| University Hospital Limerick | 22,820 | 27,886 | 32,382 | 39,327 | 29,337 | 32,305 | 31,551 | 24,197 | 10,162 | 22,844 | 272,812 |
| University Hospital Waterford | 43,366 | 29,990 | 51,046 | 47,505 | 38,858 | 29,137 | 46,325 | 27,121 | 33,309 | 40,403 | 387,061 |
| University Maternity Hospital, Limerick | 110 | 212 | 280 | | 39 | 1,666 | 891 | 1,025 | 1,533 | 15 | 5,770 |
| Wexford General Hospital | 9,856 | 8,664 | 13,249 | 12,312 | 24,194 | 15,663 | 29,343 | 23,103 | 12,715 | 25,695 | 174,793 |
| **Total** | **438,048** | **531,254** | **565,665** | **587,081** | **603,355** | **574,128** | **686,826** | **568,074** | **448,537** | **514,701** | **5,517,668** |