



22nd August 2025

Deputy Grace Boland TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 4150625: To ask the Minister for Health if all external legal fees incurred by her Department, and by any bodies under its aegis, are charged at negotiated discounted rates; how fees are monitored for compliance; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Grace Boland

Dear Deputy

I refer to the above PQ submitted to the Minister for Health, who has requested that I respond to you directly.

I wish to confirm that the HSE procures its contracted law firms via a formal, transparent and public procurement process run by the Office of Government Procurement where law firms who demonstrate the best level of expertise at the most economical hourly rates are appointed to deliver HSE legal services.

As part of the procurement process, bidding law firms are required not only to specify their proposed fee structures, but also to outline the range of services they are willing to provide to the HSE without charge. Furthermore, the firms are required to guarantee a minimum allocation of Partner, Senior Solicitor and Junior Solicitor input, thereby safeguarding both the quality and efficiency of the legal services delivered.

The Office of Legal Service operates a bespoke case management and billing IT system, which ensures that the appropriate contracted hourly rate is applied for all work done by each of the HSE's contracted law firms, adjusting the sums paid to contracted firms to ensure that the contracted levels of Partner, senior and junior inputs are provided. This system produces reports on legal spend which are monitored by the OLS on a periodic basis.

Yours Sincerely

Maire Lennon
HSE Head of Legal Services