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23rd June 2025

Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ : 29146/25

To ask the Minister for Health to confirm, in view of the lack of capacity in the laboratory department in Letterkenny University Hospital, the cost of outsourcing routine blood samples to private laboratories from January 2025 to date. - Pádraig Mac Lochlainn

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Pathology Department at LUH has experienced a significant increase in workload and no longer has the capacity to perform the total number of GP samples in the routine 8am to 8pm window. The only solution to this problem is additional analysers and currently LUH have no floor space in the laboratory to accommodate the additional equipment. Therefore, a small proportion of GP blood science work (5.5%) is being outsourced owing to lack of processing capacity within the Biochemistry Department to Private Providers. LUH continue to try to resolve the LUH Blood Sciences laboratory capacity issue with HSE Estates. LUH have spent €429,854 on referring GP work out from January 2025 to May 2025.

Yours Sincerely,

**Seán Murphy
Hospital Manager
Letterkenny General Hospital**