



***Hospital Manager's Office
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24th June 2025

Deputy Doherty,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ : PQ 30602/25

To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of blood tests for Letterkenny University Hospital that are outsourced; the cost of this outsourcing; if there is any plan to address the capacity issues that prevent all blood testing being done on site; the impact this is having on hospital services, GPs and surgeries; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Pearse Doherty

Dear Deputy Doherty

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.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



Letterkenny University Hospital



**Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive**

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**Seán Murphy
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