



**Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais**

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14 07 2025

Deputy David Cullinane TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 30328 25:** *To ask the Minister for Health the spend by each public hospital, including Section 38 organisations where it must be requested, on private ambulances in each of the years 2015 to 2024 and to date in 2025, in tabular form.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

**Context:**

Overall the HSE National Ambulance Service provides 999/122 emergency services and a number of inter-hospital transfers as clinically required to the population of 5 million+. Demand for 999/112 calls has increased by 25% since 2019. Last year NAS responded to 430,000 emergency calls.

There is a significant requirement for transfers of non-urgent public patients for various clinical reasons and private ambulance providers are utilised to provide additional capacity to handle such transfers where deemed necessary and required by the HSE. Examples include transfers between hospitals, between residential and acute settings and transfers for diagnostic tests at another hospital. Expenditure on the use of private ambulances is managed at local hospital level.

Note that taxis may also be used in cases where an ambulance is not required, for example to transfer dialysis patients from home to acute hospital.

Please find attached in Appendix 1 Private Ambulance spend by public hospital for **2020 & 2021**. This data was collated as part of separate exercise and was readily available.

In relation to your request for Private Ambulance spend by public hospital for the years **2023 to 2025**,

The HSE Central Management information systems do not capture this level of detail.



The financial data requested is not captured centrally and the collation of the data from all public hospitals would be an extensive piece of work in the time required to source, gather and collate data. Furthermore, data may not be available at all sites for the years requested, is not validated and would likely not be available in a standardised format.

Re Section 38 organisations, please note you will need to submit this request to the Section 38 organisations directly as publicly funded Section 38 organisations are separate entities for these purposes. The HSE does not hold governance over Section 38 organisations' management information. Section 38 organisations are independent legal entities with their own Boards/Councils. Within the Section 38 Service Arrangements regarding Roles and Responsibilities, under the Duties of the HSE, at Clause 3.1b (ii) the HSE contractually recognise this independence as follows: 'accept the independent identity and operational autonomy of the Provider in the provision of the Services under this Arrangement'.

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**

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## Appendix 1

<b>Re PQ 30328 25: Spend on Private Ambulance by Hospital 2020 &amp; 2021</b>		
<b>HSE Public Hospital</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
BANTRY General Hospital	700	2,769
Connolly Hospital	147,021	222,794
Cork University Hospital	479,709	593,255
Letterkenny University Hospital	1,602,659	1,755,130
MALLOW General Hospital	4,216	12,626
Mayo University Hospital	828,277	1,086,805
MRH Mullingar	305,730	444,476
MRH Portlaoise	134,733	262,086
MRH Tullamore	477,899	741,769
Nenagh Hospital	154,030	184,578
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda	654,692	683,339
Our Lady's Hospital Navan	173,814	197,930
Portiuncula University Hospital	139,118	314,175
Roscommon University Hospital	75,213	163,187
Sligo University Hospital	544,589	588,210
St Luke's Hospital Rathgar	7,447	12,489
Tipperary University Hospital	347,966	634,120
University Hospital Galway	613,070	942,624
University Hospital Limerick	691,698	1,059,355
University Hospital Waterford	541,836	1,029,357
University Maternity Hospital Limerick	4,305	2,994
St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny	387,237	620,870
Cavan General Hospital	594,870	751,379
Wexford General Hospital	362,983	633,019
Kerry General Hospital	207,216	284,559
Naas General Hospital	155,191	125,291
Monaghan General Hospital	8,604	16,643
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,644,822</b>	<b>13,365,831</b>
<i>Note: HSE statutory only. Source Regional Finance ledgers.</i>		