



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisunta Cúnta,  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta –  
Rochtain & Comhtháthú

Aonad 4, Lárionad Gnó,  
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4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Deputy Colm Burke,  
  
Dáil Eireann,  
  
Leinster House,  
  
Kildare Street,  
  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 11969/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of where the additional €145.50 million 2022 and €138.74 million was spent on costs related to fixed unit costs and other costs incurred which were in excess of the reimbursed money follows the patient rate paid under the nursing homes support scheme as per the HSE annual reports and financial statements 2023; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

The 2023 HSE Annual Financial Statement details a variance between the NHSS funded costs and the actual costs at HSE Community Nursing Units (CNU) within all nine Community Health Organisations (CHOs) at that time.

One of the main drivers of this variance was due to both permanent and rolling temporary bed closures arising mainly from adherence to SI293 regulations. Compliance to these regulations is being addressed by the CNU Capital Investment Programme.

These costs do not relate to the amount a person will pay towards their care under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Fair Deal). They are the operating costs, to the HSE, of providing care in these CNU.



The amount a person pays towards the cost of their nursing home care under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme (Fair Deal) is calculated based on the value of their assets and income when they apply for nursing home care. This calculation follows the requirements of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009.

It is acknowledged that there are variations in the cost of care across public centres as well as across private nursing homes, with CNU's generally having a higher cost of care.

A number of factors contribute to these costs including;

- Reductions in the number of long-stay public beds in public nursing homes/CNU's to comply with HIQA residential care standards, while fixed costs such as lighting, heating and maintenance costs have increased.
- Rates of pay and leave entitlements in public sector are higher than in private sector.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Patricia Whelehan**

**Assistant National Director – Access & Integration, Services for Older People**