

Príomhoifigeach Faisnéise

Teicneolaíocht agus Claochlú FSS, Ospidéal Dr Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8, D08 W2A8 **Chief Information Officer** 

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Mr James Geoghegan TD Dáil Eireann Leinster House Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 12922/25

"To ask the Minister for Health to identify specific examples where artificial intelligence has been adapted for the operation of her Department and each body under the aegis of her Department; and if she will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Geoghegan,

Artificial intelligence (AI) and related technologies are increasingly prevalent in business and society, and are beginning to be applied to healthcare. These technologies have the potential to transform many aspects of patient care, as well as administrative processes. Across the health service there are already examples of where AI is starting to be used. It is being deployed across some acute hospitals to help staff who are examining the scan of a cancer patient to define which areas of tissue need to be targeted during radiotherapy, and where the therapy needs to avoid to minimise side effects. At the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, AI helps surgeons with robotic surgery providing for new less invasive surgery and helping patients recover faster. AI is also being used on a trial basis to identify the patients most at risk of needing to be admitted to hospital to prevent them requiring admission at all.

Given the pace of change within the AI space, a high-level AI Strategy and roadmap is being developed to provide a general direction of travel for the HSE. This Strategy is jointly commissioned by the DoH and HSE and will be focused promoting the responsible and safe use of AI across key strategic pillars where initiatives will be implemented. This will include initiatives which can have a meaningful impact to Clinical and Patient Care, Operations and Administration, Research and Innovation and Public and Population Management. In addition HIQA have been requested by the DoH & HSE to develop a National Framewrok for the responsible and safe use of AI in Health and Social Care. This work is currently underway.



An AI Implementation Framework is also being developed to ensure that AI systems are used ethically, legally, safely, and effectively. The Framework will cover requirements to comply with the EU AI Act. It will cover the entire AI lifecycle, from conception and approval to development, deployment, monitoring, auditing, and decommissioning

If you feel that the question has not been fully answered or you require any further clarity, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fran Thompson, Chief Information Officer, Technology and Transformation, HSE.