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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
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24th April 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re PQ 9546 25: *To ask the Minister for Health to provide a breakdown of the cost of acquiring services from private hospitals and other private health care providers by regional health authorities from 1 September 2024 to 10 February 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

In response to your request please see the table in **Appendix 1** to this letter. This is the best information currently available and comprises the data that was received by us within the timeframe available for this response. Each region has provided the data from their local hospital finance ledgers and comprises both Statutory and Voluntary hospital data. The submission is a breakdown by regional health areas of the cost of public hospitals acquiring services from private hospitals and other private health care providers including diagnostic service provision. The data is sourced from HSE Acute Hospital Finance from regional finance units. The data has been provided for the period requested, or as close to it as the local finance systems allow.

As part of the 2024 Waiting List Action Plan (WLAP), the aim was to adopt a systematic approach to commissioning additional activity in participating private hospitals to support achieving 2024 targets. As part of the HSE's Out-Patient Framework, capacity was procured for the specific specialties of dermatology, ophthalmology and plastic surgery, due to the current deficit of capacity that is available from the NTPF. Additionally external private insourcing companies were used to see and treat patients from an elective waiting list.

The 2024 Waiting List Action Plan resulted in circa 1.812 million patients being removed from active waiting lists. Waiting list removals were achieved using a multi-pronged approach including:

- Increases in Acute Hospital Core activity
- Activity delivered through once off funding through additional clinics including weekend and blitz clinics, clinical validation, use of clinical insourcing, and accessing capacity from private hospitals.
- The HSE and the NTPF worked closely to ensure coordinated approaches towards commissioning and circa 317k waiting list removals were delivered by the NTPF in 2024
- In addition, in 2024, the HSE also outsourced longer-waiting patients to private hospitals to support the delivery of additional capacity.



If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah.anderson1@hse.ie or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Anderson

Bainisteoir Ginearálta | General Manager

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Appendix 1 to PQ 9646 25

Table 1

Cost of acquiring services from private hospitals and other private healthcare providers by Regional Health Area for the period 1 September 2024 to 10 February 2025*	
RHA	Amount €m
RHA A: HSE Dublin and North East	14.2
RHA B: HSE Dublin and Midlands	10.6
RHA C: HSE Dublin & South East	18.0
RHA D: HSE South West	8.4
RHA E: HSE Mid West	19.6
RHA F: HSE West and North West	10.4
Total Health Regions	81.4
<i>Source: HSE Acute Hospital Finance regional finance units</i>	
<i>*The data has been provided for the period requested, or as close to it as the local finance systems allow.</i>	