



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

An Oifig Náisiúnta don Chuimsiú
Sóisialta
Rannóg Cúram Príomhúil
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte
Lána an Mhuilinn
Baile Phámar
Baile Átha Cliath 20

☎: 01-620 1666☎. 01-620 1626

National Social Inclusion Office
Primary Care Division
Health Service Executive
Mill Lane
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

1st December, 2016

Deputy Clare Daly
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 35510/16

* To ask the Minister for Health if he will account for the 18% underspend in allocated budgets to Traveller health programmes between 2008 and 2013 in view of the fact that the all Ireland Traveller health study showed that Travellers experience extremely serious health challenges and poor health outcomes relative to the rest of the population..

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

The All Ireland Traveller Health Study demonstrated the poor health status of Travellers and highlighted the barriers experienced by members of this community in accessing and using services.

The HSE is committed to addressing inequalities faced by Travellers and to supporting the range of structures, processes and priority actions aimed at improving the health of this group.

In this regard, funding is provided towards actions that address health promotion and prevention, effective and timely access to services, and enhanced outcomes. The involvement of Travellers in the design and planning of such interventions is a key principle of work in this area.

At the same time, Travellers are entitled to access the range of mainstream health services, including acute care, GP services, public health nursing, drugs payment scheme, and so on.

The reference to an “underspend of 18%” appears to be sourced from the Pavee Point report “Travelling with Austerity”, published in 2013.

In respect of Traveller health funding between 2008 and 2013, a snapshot of available figures confirms the following:

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2008	€12,231,440	€9,361,322
2009	€12,231, 440	€ 9,907,004
2010	€ 11,538,569	€10,968,251
2011	€ 11,654, 493	€ 11,041,242
2012	€ 10,472,163	€10,069,132

Figures for 2013 are not presently available; however, it is unlikely that there would be much variance from figures for 2011 and 2012.

The underspend reflected in the figures above is acknowledged. These figures reflect the challenges during a period of recession and associated severe resource constraints within the health service, together with obligations around meeting statutory and Vote requirements. While all budgets were impacted during this period, it should also be recognised that strong efforts were made in respect of protecting Traveller budgets and associated spending against disproportionate reductions.

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

Yours sincerely,



Diane Nurse
National Lead: Social Inclusion