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July 24th, 2024

Minister Anne Rabbitte
Constituency Office
Main St.
Loughrea
County Galway

RE:PQ 32029/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided to enable the out-of-hours GP services in Galway since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy Rabbitte

I refer to your Parliamentary Question regarding the funding provided to the out-of-hours GP services in Galway. I have examined the matter and wish to inform you that out-of-hours GP services in Community Healthcare West, comprising of counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon is mainly provided by Westdoc, the official GP Out-of-Hours service in the area. As Westdoc covers Galway, Mayo and Roscommon, I regret that it is not possible to provide costs in respect of Galway only.

A Service Arrangement is in place between the HSE and Westdoc. The funding provided to Westdoc in Galway, Mayo and Roscommon under the Service Arrangement since 2020 is as follows:

- 2020: €4,039,497;
- 2021: €4,081,742;
- 2022: €3,969,755;
- 2023: €4,745,432;
- 2024: €4,745,432.

Prior to Covid-19, General Practitioners who were members of Westdoc claimed fees in respect of patients seen during out of hours work. In 2020, this was changed and a grant system, based on 2019 levels of activity, was put in place. This resulted in the grant being made available to Westdoc for distribution amongst the GPs. Since 2024, the following sums have been paid.

- 2020: €1,128,639;
- 2021: €1,623,695;
- 2022: €1,623,694;
- 2023: €1,623,695;
- 2024: € 464,299 (up to 31/03/24).



A number of GPs in Galway city who are not members of Westdoc, have formed a group called “Galway Citydoc”, who were also paid in respect of their out of hours work through the grant system similar to Westdoc since 2020. The amounts paid to Galway Citydoc is as follows:

- 2020: € 99,572;
- 2021: €147,287;
- 2022: €147,286;
- 2023: €147,287;
- 2024: € 43,295 (up to 31/03/24).

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'M Warde'.

Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon