



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
um Rochtain agus Imeascadh

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Deputy Róisín Shortall
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

21st August 2024

PQ 27326/24 To ask the Minister for Health the total expenditure on contracting out radiotherapy treatment for public patients to private providers in each of the years 2020 to 2023, and to date in 2024, in tabular form. - Róisín Shortall

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

Following review of the request and engagement with colleagues in HSE National Finance Division, regrettably this information is not readily available from HSE National Finance in a standardised or comparable format from the finance systems.

The shortcomings in the HSE legacy systems are well acknowledged and their replacement by a single standard financial system for the Health Sector is at the core of the Finance Reform Programme initiated by the Department of Health.

Access and Integration contacted the St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) for information regarding your question.

Please see below from SLRON:

St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) have two linear accelerators (linacs) closed.

Currently the impact of linac closures are being mitigated by radiation therapists across the network treating patients on an additional scheduled overtime basis. This has enabled the network to maintain the number of patients starting treatment and number of fractions delivered on a monthly basis in the network despite the closure.

SLRON are actively trying to recruit radiation therapists at an international level and participating in and supportive of the ongoing independently chaired and collaborative Radiation Therapist Review. We have a number of graduates in pre-employment from Trinity College Dublin, which is encouraging.



The challenges facing radiotherapy services are kept under constant clinical and managerial review monitoring processes such as key performance indicators and close working with the HSE and National Cancer Care Programme. Patients are regularly assessed and triaged in line with national clinical guidance to prioritise as required. If necessary, patients are facilitated to cross sites and or utilise private radiotherapy capacity if available, costs detailed below from 2020 - 2023.

The costs recorded relate mainly to prostate cancer treatment which takes between 6-8 weeks and would require a large amount of time on our reduced linacs capacity.

Year	Cost per year
2020	€148,010
2021	€147,735
2022	€538,563
2023	€7,284,567
2024 YTD (31.05.24)	€2,265,366

Data source: SLRON

Access and Integration contacted both Saolta Hospital Group and South/South West Hospital Group regarding your question, please see the included response regarding Galway University Hospital.

Cork University Hospital have advised that due to leave (planned and unplanned) within the Finance Department, they are unable to provide the requested detail and will revert when the information is available.

We will revert to you when the information becomes available.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Access and Integration (Acute Services)