



**Príomhoifigeach Faisnéise**

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Mr Malcolm Byrne TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ ref 46801/24**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if his Department and agencies under the aegis of his Department have policies on the use of artificial intelligence within the Department; whether training has been provided to staff on the use of AI; if his Department has used AI (including large language models) in the preparation of legislation or statutory instruments.”**

Dear Deputy Byrne,

The HSE recognise that AI has the potential to create significant improvements in the delivery of Health Care. The European Union (EU) AI Act will also bring new compliances issues to implement, and it places new transparency, consent and disclosure obligations on organizations operating in the EU, while restricting high-risk uses of AI. Compliance with the Act requires changes to AI governance and oversight, risk assessment, monitoring and auditing, and policies, procedures, and training. In the delivery of AI we must ensure that the ethical, data security and potential Bias which can occur in AI toolsets are managed and mitigated. In addition, there is considerable requirement to manage the integration of AI toolsets within our extensive applications.

The Department of Health has requested HIQA to develop a health care Framework and supporting toolset. This framework will be developed during 2025. To ensure a system wide response to the emerging opportunities and impact of Artificial Intelligence(AI), the HSE have established a national AI Implementation Working Group for the use of AI in the Irish public health sector.

This group advise and support all AI initiatives within the HSE ensuring that they comply with the HIQA framework. This will encompass the approval, development, deployment, and management of AI technologies in health care. The framework aims



to ensure that AI systems are used ethically, legally, safely, and effectively, aligning with the HSE's mission to provide high-quality patient care. The HSE will be providing training for staff as the deployment of AI tools is delivered.

The HSE have also established an Artificial Intelligence and Automation Centre of Excellence in the HSE.

The Department of Health in conjunction with the HSE have also requested the Health Information and Quality Authority to consider the development of guidelines for ethical and safe (responsible) use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health and social care.

While there is currently no dedicated policy or training on the use of AI across the HSE it is expected that this issue will be addressed as a result of the work currently in progress.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Thompson".

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