Health Budget Oversight Group Minutes

26th November 2020

Health Service Executive:	Stephen Mulvany, Colum Maddox, Damien McCallion, Nigel O'Keeffe, Mark O'Donoghue, AnnMarie Hoey, Phillipa Witheroe.
Department of Health:	Paul Bolger, Breda Rafter, Aidan Gilchrist, Claire Doyle, John O'Grady, Evan Walker, Kevin Colman, Linda Learmouth, Louise Carrigan, Mark Hennessy, Eoin Halpin, Mary Campbell, Caoimhe Dolan
D/Public Expenditure & Reform:	Ronnie Downes (Chair), David Owens, Terry Jennings, Patrick Moran, Robert Scott, Deirdre Collins, Seán Prior, Kevin O'Farrell.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

   Minutes from the previous HBOG meeting on 29th October 2020 were agreed.

2. **Update on HSE COVID-19 Action Plan – Finance**

Vaccines

Further information re record keeping and delivery in regards a vaccine roll out will be discussed in the High-Level Task Force on Covid-19 Vaccination meeting next week.

Testing/tracing

Finalising sanction in regards Testing & Tracing was briefly discussed.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

D/Health to respond to written queries in regards PPE and revert to PER by week end. The Group discussed the audit on PPE requested by Min. Health from Q1 to end 2021.

Action: HSE to prepare note outlining usage and management of PPE to date. This is to include the Terms of Reference and be shared with D/Health and PER.

Private hospitals

The original private hospital agreement and current negotiations were discussed.

PER requested HIPE data in relation to elective care and details around the procurement process and how these differ from the HPO and NTPF process. A prices and volume timeline was also requested.

Action: D/Health to provide a note outlining the differentiation between the 'access to care' and NTPF funding.

PER to send data queries to HSE.

3. Health Budget Profile and Monitoring

Staffing and recruitment

PER requested an update on the HSE staffing and recruitment strategy for the next 12 months from D/Health.

The absenteeism figure in the weekly Flash Report while recognising that this is a standing item on the Cabinet Committee agenda over the coming months. *Action: HSE to draft a note to explain calculations on this and a subgroup meeting re staffing will take place offline.*

D/Health requested N20 AND N21 pay figures from the HSE. D/Health to link in with PER pay unit on this matter offline.

4. 2021 – Outlook/Planning

The Group noted that the HSE NSP is with D/Health who have 21 days to consider.

AOB

The Group discussed ideas on the strategic direction of HBOG meetings for 2021 and the important role of the HBOG. An approach will be agreed before year end and discussed in the HBOG forum. Bilaterals between the PER Vote team and individuals in D/Health Finance unit to take place for each expenditure area prior to the next HBOG meeting.

It was agreed that weekly Flash Reporting will continue through 2021.

Next meeting: 17th December 11am