An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Department of Health

Annual Report 2019

Contents

Introduction by Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly **1**

Foreword by Interim Secretary General **2**

Overview **3**

The Department's Mission 3
Role of the Department 3
Statement of Strategy - Strategic Objectives 4
Strategic Objective 1: Support People to lead healthy and independent lives 4
Strategic Objective 2: Ensure the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care 8
Strategic Objective 3: Create a more responsive, integrated and people-centred health and social care service 12
Strategic Objective 4: Promote effective and efficient management of the health services 18
Strategic Objective 5: Develop a high-performing Department to lead and oversee the health and social care sector 23

Appendix 1 Corporate Information **26**

Appendix 2 Agencies under the aegis of the Department **30**

Appendix 3 Legislation **31**

Appendix 4 Department of Health Publications **34**

Introduction by Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly

I welcome the publication of the Department's Annual Report for 2019.

2019 saw great strides in the implementation of Sláintecare for the future delivery and planning of our health services. We made progress in the planning and co-design of the new regional health areas. The Sláintecare Integration Fund was established and is supporting 122 projects nationwide through the provision of €20 million, resulting in the recruitment of 300 additional staff.

My Department invested significantly in our primary care infrastructure in 2019, funding modern, well-equipped Primary Care Centres and supporting the delivery of a wider range of integrated primary care services. At the end of 2019, 127 Primary Care Centres were fully operational with a further 11 expected to become operational throughout 2020.

Negotiations with the Irish Medical Organisation were successfully concluded in 2019. The agreement reached on a major package of GP contractual reforms will assist in transforming and reforming the health service benefitting both patients and general practitioners. The agreement will see investment of €210 million over the next four years and includes funding for managing chronic diseases such as diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, benefitting over 400,000 patients.

My Department continued to drive reform in the acute hospital sector, including through the implementation of key national strategies and policies, including the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026, the National Maternity Strategy - Creating a Better Future Together 2016-2026 and A Trauma System for Ireland. In line with Sláintecare, the Department of Health continues to work towards ensuring that all patients receive the right care, at the right time and in the right place. Implementation of these important strategies is key in that regard.

Patient safety is at the heart of our work at the Department of Health. In 2019, my Department launched the new Patient Advocacy Service, offering patients a free and confidential helpline with experienced advocates on hand to provide information and support to patients. This will ensure that patient safety remains the cornerstone of our health service.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Department's officials and the Ministerial team for 2019, including Simon Harris TD, my predecessor as Minister for Health; Finian McGrath, former Minister of State with special responsibility for Disabilities; Catherine Byrne, former Minister of State for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy; and Jim Daly, former Minister of State with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People. All of whom contributed greatly to the achievements of the Department during 2019.

Stephen Donnelly TD, Minister for Health

Foreword by Interim Secretary General

2019 was another busy year for the Department of Health in our role serving the citizens of Ireland, the Minister for Health, Ministers of State and the Government.

Alongside a significant programme of policy development, the Department prepared 49 Statutory Instruments and dealt with over 12,300 Parliamentary Questions and 582 Freedom of Information requests. The Department's legislative output saw five new pieces of primary legislation enacted, five bills published, and 50 Statutory Instruments processed.

This work was carried out alongside and as part of our ongoing efforts to reform the health and social care service through Sláintecare. The publication of the Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 provided an ambitious roadmap for the year. Significant achievements include the launch of the €20 million Sláintecare Integration Fund, with over 122 projects funded. A major milestone was achieved with the opening of CHI at Connolly, the first of three new children's hospital facilities to open. Other advancements made in the provision of health and social care services include the publication of the Policy on the Development of Graduate to Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice, winner of the Civil Service Excellence Award in Citizen Impact and Customer Service. Finally, the Department of Health renewed its commitment to improving women's health outcomes in September 2019, launching the Women's Health Taskforce as a whole-of-department endeavour to engage and make meaningful change.

This work was carried out while managing the significant and advancing challenge represented by Brexit. The Department of Health worked closely with the Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other Government departments to address the many challenges arising from Brexit.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Department's officials including Mr Jim Breslin, former Secretary General of the Department, and thank them for their hard work and professionalism over the course of a very busy and a very challenging 2019.

Robert Watt
Interim Secretary General

Overview

This annual report for the Department of Health outlines the main achievements made during 2019 to deliver on our Mission, fulfil our role and achieve the objectives set out in the Statement of Strategy 2016 - 2019. Although this document was drafted in 2020, it was only published in 2021 considering the context at the time; COVID-19 and the associated public health emergency and urgent response required by the Department.

The Department's Mission

The mission of the Department of Health is to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Ireland by:

- keeping people healthy.
- providing the healthcare people need.
- delivering high quality services.
- getting the best value from health system resources.

Role of the Department

The role of the Department of Health is to provide strategic leadership for the health service and to ensure that Government policies are translated into actions and implemented effectively. We support the Minister and Ministers of State in the implementation of Government policy and in discharging their governmental, parliamentary, and Departmental duties.

This includes:

- providing leadership and policy direction for the health sector to improve health outcomes.
- strengthening the functions surrounding governance and performance oversight of the HSE and agencies ensuring accountable and high-quality services.
- developing a focus on collaboration to achieve health priorities and contribute to wider social and economic goals.
- providing an organisational environment where high performance is achieved, collaborative working is valued, and the knowledge and skills of staff are developed.

Statement of Strategy - Strategic Objectives

The five strategic objectives set out in the Statement of Strategy 2016-2019 are:

1. Support people to lead healthy and independent lives.
2. Ensure the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care.
3. Create a more responsive, integrated and people-centred health and social care service.
4. Promote effective and efficient management of the health services.
5. Develop a high-performing Department to lead and oversee the health and social care sector.

The Statement of Strategy 2016-2019 is available here: https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/8df019-department-of-health-statement-of-strategy-2016-2019/

In the following sections, achievements are organised under the strategic objectives' headings.

Strategic Objective 1: Support people to lead healthy and independent lives

The Department of Health is committed to promoting awareness of the benefits of healthy living and supporting healthy lifestyle changes. In supporting people to lead healthy and independent lives, the Department of Health made progress in 2019 in the following areas:

- Progressing Healthy Ireland.
- Advancing health protection and population screening.
- Supporting independent living.

Progressing Healthy Ireland

Prevention, early intervention, and empowering people to look after their own health and wellbeing are essential elements of our Healthy Ireland strategy – the 'whole of Government' framework for improving health and wellbeing and the quality of people's lives. In 2019, the following elements of this initiative were furthered.

- The annual *Healthy Ireland Survey* was launched in November. The 2019 report found that the prevalence of smoking has dropped from 23% in 2015 to 17% in 2019; equating to an estimated 165,000 fewer smokers than there were five years ago. The survey included new areas of study including sleep and sun protection.

- The Healthy Ireland Communications Campaign ran throughout 2019. The campaign sought to raise public awareness of gov.ie/HealthyIreland as the go-to for trusted sources of information and supports in making healthy changes.
- A third round of the Healthy Ireland Fund was allocated in 2019. The Fund enabled local authorities to deliver local actions in key national policy areas such as obesity, physical activity, healthy eating, sexual health, mental health and smoking cessation, with a particular focus on disadvantaged communities.
- Cross-sectoral oversight groups continued to implement the Obesity Policy and Action Plan (OPAP), and the National Physical Activity Plan (NPAP).
- The Minister for Health and the Minister for State for the National Drugs Strategy, together with the Minister for Justice and Equality, announced a health diversion approach to the possession of drugs for personal use. The decision came on foot of the report of the Working Group to Consider Alternative Approaches to the Possession of Drugs for Personal Use. A group chaired by the Department of Health is overseeing the phased implementation of this approach which will see a person found in possession of drugs for personal use diverted to the HSE for a health screening and brief intervention.
- The Minister for Health notified the European Commission of draft regulations under the Public Health (Alcohol) Act 2018 that prohibit price-based promotions of alcohol in order to reduce harmful binge-drinking and to make alcohol products less affordable for young people. In addition, sections of the Act which became law in 2019 included a prohibition on the advertising of alcohol in or on public service vehicles, within public transport infrastructure and within 200 metres of a school, a crèche or a local authority playground; a restriction on alcohol advertising in cinemas; and a ban on children's clothing that advertises alcohol.
- Ireland was selected as the location for the Global Alcohol Policy Conference 2020.
- The first set of data on the extent of gambling in Ireland was published, relating to 2014 and 2015. The survey provides a baseline of data to assist in policy formulation, future planning and action on gambling.
- Smile agus Sláinte, the new National Oral Health Policy, was published in April. The plan sees the approach to oral health evolve from "diagnose and treat" to a person-centred, proactive and preventative approach available locally, in line with the vision as set out under Sláintecare.
- Additional funding of €1million was made available for implementation of the National Drugs Strategy, 'Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery: a health-led response to drug and alcohol use

in Ireland, 2017-2025'. The additional funding addresses the priorities set out in the strategy including early harm reduction responses, emerging trends in substance misuse and improving services for at-risk groups. Fourteen strategic drug and alcohol initiatives were selected for funding for a 36-month period; these initiatives were identified as priorities by drug and alcohol task forces. €6m in funding was administered to task forces and voluntary organisations.

- Progress was made towards the establishment of a pilot medically supervised injecting facility in Dublin city, with the decision of An Bord Pleanála to grant planning permission for the facility to Merchants Quay Ireland in December 2019. The supervised Injecting Facility will address the high number of deaths among people injecting drugs in Dublin city by supporting homeless and other vulnerable drug users to access and engage with health care services.
- The Department hosted the National Drugs Forum in November, in conjunction with the Health Research Board; this forum was attended by over 200 delegates from drug and alcohol services across the country. The theme of the forum was 'Inclusion health: responding to the complex health needs of people who use drugs'.
- At the British-Irish Council Summit hosted by the Irish Government in November, the Minister for Health and the Minister for State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy hosted a meeting of health ministers from the eight member governments and administrations on health and social initiatives to combat substance misuse. Ministers also visited the inclusion health hub in Dublin's North East Inner City which is transforming the delivery of health services for people living in the area who use drugs.
- The Department secured additional funding of €1.7 million for drug and alcohol services in National Service Plan (NSP) 2020, with a particular focus on services for women and children.
- The General Scheme was finalised for the Public Health Tobacco and Nicotine Inhaling Products Bill.

Advancing Health Protection and Population Screening

The Department of Health is committed to developing policy and suitable legislative frameworks to support public health protection. Advances made in 2019 include:

- A Health Information and Quality Authority report confirming introduction of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) programme was welcomed in 2019. The PrEP programme involves the pre-emptive use of antiretroviral medication to prevent HIV infection, within a holistic service which

includes regular monitoring and testing, as well as advice and counselling on safer sex practices. The PrEP programme commenced in November.

- An Taoiseach, the Minister for Health and the Minister of State for Health Promotion signed up to a global initiative aimed at boosting HIV prevention and treatment, and also reducing stigma associated with HIV. World AIDS Day 2019 was marked, recognising the significant progress made in addressing HIV in Ireland.
- The first ever skin cancer prevention policy was launched, calling on people to *#ProtectYourSkin* to tackle the most common type of cancer in Ireland.
- The Health in Ireland - Key Trends 2019 report was published, with statistics demonstrating that Irish people are living longer, healthier lives.
- The National Screening Advisory Committee was established and held its first meeting in November. The Committee is an independent advisory Committee that will advise the Minister and Department on all new proposals for population-based screening programmes and revisions to existing programmes in line with internationally recognised standards.
- A White Paper was developed on the National Genomic Medicine Strategy.
- The Implementation Oversight Group for the review and restructuring of Public Health Medicine completed its work. A draft future model was prepared and phase two was commenced.
- An internal review of infectious diseases legislation was completed. The Health Research Board (HRB) was commissioned to undertake a review of international approaches.
- A Vaccine Alliance was launched by the Minister for Health and engagement commenced with key organisations, including social media organisations.
- A HPV vaccine was introduced for boys; a ACWY vaccine was introduced for both boys and girls.
- A Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine was introduced.
- Funding was secured, and a hosting agreement signed by relevant parties, to support the National Immunisation Advisory Committee.
- Ireland's first One Health Surveillance Report was published with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine.

Supporting Independent Living

Enabling and supporting people to live independently and lead active lives in their communities can make a real difference to a person's quality of life, particularly in allowing older people or those with a disability or illness to achieve their full potential. The Department is committed to supporting this, and advances made in the area in 2019 include:

- Funding was secured to recruit 10 additional dementia advisers in 2020.
- An international review of home support policy and provision was undertaken.
- 100 additional therapy posts were filled for disability services for Children.

Strategic Objective 2: Ensure the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care

Health and social care services must be safe and of a high quality. Developments made in 2019 in achieving this objective are outlined under the headings below.

- Patient safety and enhanced quality.
- Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control.
- Regulation.
- Brexit.

Patient Safety and Enhanced Quality

Patient Safety underpins all policy and service delivery work undertaken at the Department of Health. The Department is committed to the delivery of a major programme of patient safety reforms. Advancements related to these reforms made in 2019 include:

- A new independent Patient Advocacy Service was launched in 2019. The service offers a confidential helpline with experienced advocates on hand to provide information and support to patients who want to make a formal complaint to the HSE about the care they experienced in a public hospital.
- The Patient Safety (Notifiable Patient Safety Incidents) Bill 2019 was published. This legislation establishes a robust and future-proofed framework for mandatory open disclosure. The Bill contains a list of specified patient safety incidents which will be subject to mandatory open disclosure; the Bill also includes a new process by which the Minister for Health will designate other patient safety incidents for which mandatory open disclosure must also occur. The

legislation will also enable national learning from these serious patient safety incidents and to support health service-wide improvements so that harm to other patients can be prevented.

- A Chair of the Independent Patient Safety Advisory Council was appointed by the Minister.
- The National Health Quality Reporting System 2019 report was published.
- Significant engagement took place between National Patient Safety Office, Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the HSE on developing and expanding the National Care Experience Programme. The National Inpatient Experience Survey completed its third cycle.
- A Women's Health Taskforce was established, led by the Secretary General of the Department of Health and the Director General of the European Institute for Women's Health, in partnership with the National Women's Council of Ireland. The Taskforce will examine a wide range of issues impacting women's health outcomes in Ireland and develop actions on a phased, prioritised basis.
- The Minister for Health launched new National Clinical Guideline on appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medication for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia quality assured by the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC).
- Good progress was made to progress the roll out of the *Supported Care* Pathway, a key recommendation of the National Maternity Strategy; 10-30% of women are now managed in this pathway. Other areas of particular progress on the Strategy included:
    - the development of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC) guideline on risk in pregnancy for publication in early 2020; and
    - the development of the National Maternity Experience Survey for roll out in February 2020.
- The NCEC National Clinical Audit function opened in October 2019.
- The 2018 NCEC annual report was presented to the Minister and published.
- A revised NCEC manual for guideline developers was published.
- Two new National Clinical Guidelines were launched to help healthcare professionals with the diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with oesophageal or oesophagogastric junction cancer; and the diagnosis and staging of patients with ovarian cancer. The guidelines were developed by multidisciplinary groups supported by the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP).
- A HSE Delayed Discharges Implementation Group was established. The Independent Expert Review of Delayed Discharges recognised that delayed discharges or transfers of care are

caused by a multitude of factors and it made nine recommendations which include the development of a national policy to provide for a more consistent approach to recording delayed discharges, strengthening data collection, standardising definitions and ensuring consistent discharge guidelines.

- In March 2019 the terms of the CervicalCheck non-disclosure ex-gratia Scheme were approved, and a Chair of the Independent Assessment Panel for the CervicalCheck non-disclosure ex-gratia Scheme was appointed. The Scheme is designed to provide an alternative, non-adversarial and person-centred option for women affected by the CervicalCheck non-disclosure issue.
- Significant progress was made on the implementation of the recommendations of Dr Gabriel Scally's Scoping Inquiry into CervicalCheck, with 137 of 170 actions completed by the end of 2019.
- The Report of the Independent Expert Panel Review of Cervical Screening was published in December and concluded that the CervicalCheck programme has undoubtedly saved the lives of many of those who participated in the Review, that the programme is working effectively and that women can have confidence in the programme.
- The CervicalCheck Tribunal Act was developed and supported through the Oireachtas; it was enacted in July.
- The work of the Expert Group on the review of tort law and management of clinical negligence claims was completed – the final report was submitted to the Minister in December.

Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Prevention and Control

The following advancement was made in tackling antimicrobial resistance in 2019.

- €6.7 million was allocated for antimicrobial resistance and infection prevention & control measures in both acute hospitals and community care settings in 2019.
- The Department of Health continued to implement Ireland's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2020, known as iNAP, in line with the 'One Health' cross government approach to tackling antimicrobial resistance.
- The Department of Health co-hosted with Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland's first European Commission/European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) One Health Country Visit. This was a five-day event from 7th to 11th October 2019, and

included presentations, stakeholder meetings and targeted site visits across a variety of healthcare settings.

Regulation

The Department of Health is cognisant of the importance of robust regulation in the provision of high-quality, safe health and social care services. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- The enactment of the Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2019 (to amend the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 to provide that a registration board has the legal base to/must accept a decision on recognition of foreign qualifications taken previously by the State).
- A Statutory Instrument giving effect to the Basic Safety Standards Directive was signed by the Minister for Health in January.
- In 2019, the Department of Health processed 34 pieces of food legislation and 6 Statutory Instruments.
- The publication and the passage through the Dáil to Seanad Committee Stage of the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Bill 2019 (amending 5 regulatory acts, over 180 sections).
- In March, the Register of Medical Scientists was opened.
- In February, the Counsellors and Psychotherapists Registration Board members were appointed, with the first meeting held in May.

Brexit

The Department of Health, in recognition of the significant risks that Brexit posed to the Irish health sector, escalated its No Deal planning in 2019, to ensure the protection of public health, continuity in the provision of health services and the maintenance of existing services.

- The Department, with the full support of the Health Services Executive (HSE), the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and other agencies, established dedicated structures to prepare insofar as possible for the impact of a 'no deal' Brexit as part of a whole of Government effort.
- The Department also supported ongoing work led by the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to secure an 'orderly' withdrawal of the UK from the EU post Brexit.

- The Department invested considerable funding into its Brexit related contingency planning in 2019 to secure additional staff and resources for the health sector.
- The Department engaged in discussions with the UK on the Common Travel Area, with the objective of maintaining continuity of Cross-Border health service and mitigating the impact of Brexit.

Strategic Objective 3: Create a more responsive, integrated and people-centred health and social care service

The Department of Health leads the health and social care sector in ensuring the delivery of services that are shaped by, and responsive to, the needs of all people in Ireland. The achievements under this objective are set out under the following headings:

- Cross health sector initiatives.
- Primary care.
- Sláintecare.
- Social care/ mental health.
- Acute care.
- National Ambulance Service.

Cross health sector initiatives

The Department of Health is committed to cross health sector initiatives that will ensure the development of a model of care that is more integrated and continuous, person-centred, and delivered at the lowest level of complexity consistent with patient safety. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- The Cancer Patient Advisory Committee was established, in line with Recommendation 39 of the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026. The Committee provides patient input into the oversight of the implementation of the Strategy and into the development of programmes for patients with cancer. The Committee also considers how patient input into cancer services can be facilitated more broadly in line with the objectives of the National Cancer Strategy.
- There was continued engagement throughout 2019 with the EU/Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer, including a meeting hosted in Dublin.
- On foot of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018, safe, high quality services for termination of pregnancy commenced on 1 January 2019 in both hospital and community settings. A HSE Clinical Lead for Termination of Pregnancy services was appointed

to provide leadership for the ongoing implementation of evidence based, quality-assured, accessible services for people who require termination of pregnancy.

- Regulations were finalised for the Children and Family Relationships Act.
- The Department of Health received €2.7 million in funding for approved health-related measures under the Dormant Accounts Action Plan. Measures funded include a primary healthcare training programme for the Roma community, mental health initiatives for members of the Traveller Community and an intercultural healthcare project for refugees.
- A model of care for infertility was developed by a cross-Departmental group chaired by the Bioethics Unit and involving the HSE's National Women & Infants Health Programme.
- The Report of the Working Group on Access to Contraception was published. The Group considered the policy, regulatory and legislative issues relating to enhanced access to contraception, following the recommendation of the Joint Committee on the Eighth Amendment.
- The first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the health sector (2019-2024) was launched. The plan was developed by a joint department-HSE team of officials and doctors following a public consultation. The plan identified six main climate scenarios with the most profound health implications.
- The Medical Cannabis Access Programme was launched in June enabling compassionate access to cannabis for medical reasons on a pilot basis for five years. The Programme will facilitate access to cannabis-based products for medical use in line with legislation.
- Advancements made on the Health Service Structures Reform include the publication of the Health Research Board Evidence Review; the undertaking of the European Observatory Policy Dialogue; and the undertaking of Scottish-Irish health forum meetings focused on integrated structures.
- In response to the recommendations contained in the First Report of the Collaborative Forum for Former Residents of Mother and Baby Homes, the Department of Health established an Inter-Departmental Working Group to develop proposals for a package of health and wellbeing supports for former residents. The group's final report, including recommendations, was published in December 2019 with provision for a package of health and wellbeing supports for Former Residents also announced.

- In April the following changes took effect which enabled more people to access affordable health care:
    - €10 reduction in the monthly Drugs Payment Scheme threshold from €134 to €124;
    - 10% increase across all GP Visit Card weekly income thresholds; and
    - reduction in prescription charges from €2 to €1.50 for all medical card holders over the age of 70.

Primary Care

The Programme for Partnership Government confirmed the Government's commitment to a decisive shift towards primary care so that we can provide more comprehensive care for people within their own communities. Advancements made toward these ends in 2019 include:

- 129 Primary Care Centres were operational around the country at the end of 2019.
- An additional €3m in funding was provided to support the move to a Community Healthcare Network model through the development and rollout of nine learning sites across the country in the fourth quarter.
- Negotiations with the Irish Medical Organisation were successfully concluded in 2019 with an agreement reached on a package of GP contractual reforms. This agreement will see investment of €210 million in general practice over the next four years. This will include funding for the management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, benefitting more than 400,000 patients.

Sláintecare

Sláintecare encompasses the Government's vision for reform of the health and social care services in Ireland. Sláintecare will ensure universal access to the right care, at the right time, and in the right place. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- A €20m Sláintecare Integration Fund was announced. Over 477 projects applied for funding and over 122 projects from across the country were successful.
- The Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 was published in March outlining the approach for delivery of Sláintecare and the milestones to be achieved by the end of the year. The Action Plan is a fundamental enabler in the delivery of the Sláintecare vision for reformed health and social care services in Ireland.

- Six new regional health areas were proposed for establishment based on population data. Once established, these six regional bodies will be enabled to plan, fund, manage and deliver integrated care for people in their region.

Social Care and Mental Health

The Department of Health is committed to building on progress to date, enabling people to benefit from more responsive, individualised social care and mental health services that will help them to live better, more independent lives within their own communities. Actions taken in 2019 include:

- The Your Mental Health Information Line, a new dedicated and confidential 24/7 information phone line for mental health, was jointly launched by An Taoiseach, the Minister for Health and the Minister of State for Mental Health. The information line is part of the overall Digital Mental Health supports project which aims to improve accessibility to mental health supports through technology.
- A fund of €3 million was announced to help support community mental health initiatives across the country. This fund will support local sports and community organisations that promote mental health and alleviate loneliness.
- New Jigsaw sites for Wicklow and Tipperary were announced, enhancing mental health services in these counties. Jigsaw is a network of programmes across Ireland designed to support young people based on best international practice and is aligned with A Vision for Change. The new sites bring the number of Jigsaw sites to 15 nationwide.
- The Minister of State for Older People announced improved access to Home Supports.
- A General Scheme of a Bill intended to change the treatment of family farms and businesses under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme was approved. People using the scheme contribute up to 80% of their income and up to 7.5% of the value of any assets held towards their cost of care. The value of a person's home is only included in the financial assessment for the first three years of their time in care. This legislation will extend this 3-year cap to farms and businesses where a family successor continues to operate the farm or business for six years.
- The second Positive Ageing Indicators for Ireland report found that satisfaction with life and social connectedness remain high among the older population, with levels of medication a concern. Key indicators for older members of the Irish Travelling community and people with an intellectual disability were identified for the first time.

- A new Community and Voluntary Support Grant Scheme for Older People was launched and an extra €1 million funding made available to community and voluntary groups to continue to support older people, family carers and significant others to stay well and remain connected with their local community.
- The Minister for Older People jointly launched the Joint Policy Statement Housing Options for our Ageing Population with the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development. The Statement reaffirms the strong Government commitment to policies that support older people to live in their own homes and communities with dignity and independence for as long as possible.
- A final draft of A Vision for Change refresh policy was approved by the Cabinet Committee.
- A Department of Health proposal to extend Connecting for Life to 2024 was approved by the Cabinet Committee.
- A pilot for tele-counselling and tele-psychiatry was advanced.

Acute Care

The Department of Health is responsible for the oversight of the delivery of care in acute hospitals and drives reform through the development and implementation of key national strategies and policies. Achievements in 2019 include:

- A HSE National Clinical Lead for Trauma Services was appointed in June. This appointment, one of the immediate actions prioritised in 'A Trauma System for Ireland', provides an essential foundation for the implementation of that system, while the trauma and orthopaedic by-pass protocol was introduced for Naas Hospital.
- Children's Health Ireland successfully opened the Paediatric Outpatient Department & Urgent Care Centre at Connolly on a phased basis on 31st July 2019. This is a major milestone for the children's hospital programme as the first of the new facilities to come into use, delivering both paediatric outpatient services and urgent care.
- Enabling works for the new National Maternity Hospital, involving the construction of a new pharmacy and car park extension, commenced at St Vincent's University Hospital.
- The Maternity Strategy continued to be implemented. At local level several initiatives to progress the *Supported Care* Pathway were undertaken; 10% – 35% of women are now managed in this pathway.

- Pathways of care for women with immediate mesh-related needs were progressed, through collaboration with the Office of the CMO and the HSE's National Women and Infants Programme.
- The Minister for Health approved the Programme for the Centralisation of Cancer Surgery, to be completed over three years.
- The North West Cancer Centre at Altnagelvin treated over 200 patients from the Republic of Ireland in 2019.
- The Scheduled Care Access Plan was published in March 2019.
- €26m in additional funding was secured for the Winter Plan 2019/20.
- The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) have developed the Patient Access Management System (PAMS) as a single source automated solution for the management of the NTPF commissioning process.
- A policy review of the Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATUs) was launched with a commitment to funding the recommendations. The six SATUs provide 24/7 medical and psychological care to victims of sexual assault, 365 days a year, working in close collaboration with the Rape Crisis Centres and An Garda Síochána.

National Ambulance Service

The Department of Health is committed to the delivery of a safe and responsive pre-hospital emergency and intermediate care service. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- A charitably funded Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) commenced operating in Munster in July, in partnership with the HSE National Ambulance Service (NAS).
- The Clinical Hub at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) has been expanded to provide a public information phone line on available mental health supports - services went live in October 2019;
- The NAS electronic Patient Care Record was rolled out nationally in 2019;
- The Community First Responder Scheme continues to expand, with a total of 266 schemes in place as at the end of December 2019 covering all 26 counties;
- A successful pilot project for the provision of a new community paramedic model of care in border counties is being extended to Dublin, Cork and Limerick in 2020; in 2019 86% of patients seen by a Community Paramedic did not require attendance at an Emergency Department.

- NAS College and UCC awarded the first Diploma in Paramedical and a BSc paramedicine course commenced at the NAS college in September.
- The NAS Critical Care Retrieval Service was established.

Strategic Objective 4: Promote effective and efficient management of the health services

The Department oversees a range of system-level initiatives that form the foundation for better, more integrated and more efficient services. The 2019 achievements under this objective are outlined under the following headings:

- Performance, accountability, structures and governance.
- Workforce planning and skill mix.
- eHealth.
- Modernising health facilities (capital projects, in conjunction with the HSE).
- Funding models.
- Role of private health insurance.
- Pharmaceutical costs.

Performance, Accountability, Structures and Governance

A key function of the Department of Health relates to the governance of the health and social care services, monitoring performance and ensuring accountability. In 2019, the following advancements were made:

- The Department continued to provide oversight of the performance of the HSE in relation to the delivery of services and the implementation of initiatives set out in the annual HSE National Service Plan through an on-going monthly performance management process. This included monthly high-level meetings between senior management in both organisations to discuss on-going or emerging performance issues and determine actions to resolve and improve areas of concern.
- In light of the establishment of the new HSE Board and its accountability role to the Minister, the Department developed a proposal for a revised performance oversight model and engaged on this issue with the HSE Senior Management Team and the Board over the second half of 2019. The Department proposed to adopt a broader view of performance which would include:

- Delivery of activity and initiatives as set out in the NSP with identified KPIs across the four equally important domains of:
    i. access to services,
    ii. the quality and patient safety of those services,
    iii. doing this within the financial resources available and
    iv. effectively harnessing the efforts of the workforce.
- Implementation of policy and strategy
- Implementation of health reform i.e. Sláintecare

The revised oversight model was rolled-out internally within the Department from October 2019.

- An Taoiseach and the Minister for Health announced the appointment of Mr Paul Reid as Chief Executive Officer of the Health Service Executive. Mr Reid was appointed following an open competition by the Public Appointment Service for a tenure of five years.
- The Minister for Health signed a commencement order for the Health Service Executive (Governance) Act 2019 which formally established the HSE Board with effect from 28 June 2019. Positions on the Board were filled following the State Board Process operated by the Public Appointments Service. Given the size and complexity of the health service, the appointees reflect the range of competencies including corporate governance, strategic planning and financial management necessary to enable the Board to govern and lead the HSE. The Board as the governing body of the HSE is accountable to the Minister for Health for the performance of its functions. The CEO of the HSE is accountable to the Board.
- Chairpersons were also reappointed to the Hospital Group Boards; policy on Hospital Groups, including strategic guidance has been superseded by new RHAs.
- The Elective Hospitals Oversight Group was established in 2019.
- The Department of Health monitored and advised the HSE on the continuing delivery of the CervicalCheck support package and its extension to those identified with discordant cytology in the RCOG cohort.
- The Department successfully applied to the EU Commission Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) to develop a Health System Performance Assessment framework to support enhanced performance engagement with the HSE. The project is critical in moving to a more measurable and quantifiable outcomes-based framework and strongly linked to policy implementation.

The University of Amsterdam was chosen by the SRSS as the provider for the project. The project has an expected 18-month timeframe.

- The report of the Independent Review Group established to examine the role of voluntary organisations in health and social care was published in February. The Group made 24 recommendations covering areas such as the governance of voluntary organisations; dialogue, engagement and contractual processes between the State and the voluntary sector; ethos, asset ownership and public capital investment, and broader issues related to health system development.

Workforce Planning and Skill Mix

The Department of Health is committed to ensuring an optimal skill mix and positive working environments that will attract and retain staff, thereby ensuring the quality of services delivered. The following advancements were made in 2019.

- A Group was established to oversee the implementation of a new model of public health medicine as recommended in the Crowe Horwath and Scally Reports. The process aims to address the issue of consultant status for specialists in Public Health Medicine, in line with the recommendations contained within both the Reports.
- A new Sláintecare contract for consultants was announced in December whereby all future consultant appointments will be to the new contract which requires consultants employed by the State to focus 100% of their time on public-only work. Private practice will not be permitted under this new contract and this is central to this reform. These new contractual arrangements will apply to new entrants only. Existing consultants will be offered the opportunity to switch to the new proposed contract but will retain the option to remain on their existing contract.
- The final report on the Enhanced Care Model was launched in July and is designed to change the way we deliver enhanced care, improve patient outcomes, reduce agency spend and increase job satisfaction for health care staff. It was created using the evidence and learning arising from the implementation of the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix in General and Specialist Medical and Surgical Care Settings.
- Phase I of the Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix Framework was transferred to the HSE for implementation; a governance structure was established to oversee implementation and a procurement process for the necessary ICT has been completed. The third impact report has

been published. Pilot sites were established for Phase II and data collection commenced, with the first impact report received.

- In June, the data collection system for the Policy on the Development of Graduate to Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice was finalised and transferred to HSE. The final policy was published and also transferred to HSE for implementation.

eHealth

Information technology is an essential tool in the modernisation of health service delivery and in enabling the connection required among service users, professionals and organisations to achieve integrated care. Further legislative actions and investment in eHealth are a priority for the Department. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- Secured increased capital investment for ICT and eHealth 2020 (from €85m to €95m).
- Completion of the National rollout of the electronic patient care record.
- Established Data Sharing Agreement with DEASP under the Health Identifiers Act 2014.

Modernising health facilities

Appropriate facilities are required to support health and social care delivery across the sector. The Department of Health is committed to a range of actions designed to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of the health services. The following developments occurred in 2019:

- Project Ireland 2040 announced provision of funding of €10.9 billion over a decade to develop infrastructure, equipment and additional service capacity for the public health sector, in support of the implementation of Sláintecare. The Department of Health and the Health Service Executive are working with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to maintain the national Capital Tracker, which lists a range of projects and programmes to be delivered under Project 2040.
- The HSE's Capital Plan 2019 – 2021 was published in September following approval by the new Board of the Health Service Executive, and the Minister for Health with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. This Capital Plan provides for the spending of just over €2 billion on hundreds of health capital projects from 2019 to 2021. This capital funding provision has enabled the HSE to plan and fund progress in respect of the projects underway and to progress additional evaluated and prioritised projects including Government priority programmes and major capital projects.

- Investment: A number of major capital projects were completed in 2019 including:
    - Cork University Hospital radiation oncology project.
    - Letterkenny Hospital radiology project.
    - 40 bed ward block at South Tipperary Hospital.
    - Community nursing units at Tymon North (100 beds) and Peamount (100 beds).
    - Four new primary care centres were completed and opened in 2019 including Summerhill Dublin.
- Construction work continued on key health projects throughout 2019, with a number due to be completed in 2020 including:
    - National Forensic Mental Health Services Hospital, Portrane.
    - National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire.
    - University Hospital Tallaght– Renal Dialysis Project.
    - University Hospital Limerick –60 bed Ward Block.
    - University Hospital Waterford Ward Block & Palliative Care.
    - Waterford Community Nursing Unit (100 bed).

Role of private health insurance

In line with Government policy, the Department of Health seeks to promote a sustainable, community-rated voluntary private health insurance market. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- The Report of the Independent Review Group established to examine private activity in public hospitals was published and a Government decision was made on the main de Buitléir recommendations.

Pharmaceutical Costs

The Department of Health is committed to the progression of a number of initiatives that will ensure the cost-effective provision of medicines. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- Successful commencement of Falsified Medicines Directive.
- The external review of the HSE Drug Reimbursement process was completed.
- Commitment to Beneluxa and international cooperation strengthened by Ireland signing up to the shared International Horizon Scanning Initiative.

Strategic Objective 5: Develop a high-performing Department to lead and oversee the health and social care sector

In 2019, the Department of Health continued to develop a high-performing Department to lead and oversee the health and social care sector. The achievements made in 2019 are outlined under the following headings:

- Strengthened strategic oversight capacities.
- Enhanced policymaking and legislation informed by evidence and research.
- Future resourcing and strategic workforce planning.
- Enhanced supports to assist staff in fulfilling the Department's role and functions.

Strengthened Strategic oversight capabilities

The Department of Health is committed to strengthening our governance, business planning and risk management processes. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- The Department's Risk Management Framework supported adherence to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's Risk Management Guidance in relation to governance, structures, management and reporting of risks at strategic and operational level.
- The Department's Programme Management Office coordinated business planning and project management.
- The Department completed input into the Protected Disclosures Review Group prior to the transfer of function. The Department developed and delivered internal training on Protected Disclosures.

Enhanced policy making and legislation informed by evidence and research

The Department is strengthening its capacity in a number of areas, including policy making, strategy development, research and analytics, strategic oversight and governance, and project management. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- Regular meetings of the Policy Committee were held throughout 2019, at which Department of Health policies in both initiation stage and development stage were presented. A total of ten meetings were held in 2019. This involved 13 policies presented by ten units across five Divisions.

- The Research Services Unit worked with units across the Department to conduct or commission high quality, robust research and evaluation to ensure that evidence was at the core of decision making across the Department.

Future Resourcing and Strategic Workforce Planning

In order to develop a high-performing Department to lead and oversee the health and social care sector, the Department is committed to strategic workforce planning that will ensure future resource and skill needs are met. Advancements made in 2019 include:

- At the end of 2019, there were 521 staff (WTE) employed by the Department. During the 2019 period, 108 new staff members joined the Department and 66 people left, mostly through retirement, moving to different employment or taking a career break.
- Implementation of the Organisation Development Action Plan overseen by the Organisation Development sub-committee of the Management Board. This sub-committee has representation from staff of the Department across all grades.
- There were 1,827.5 training days held across all grades, comprising 115 programmes and courses.
- Consultants were engaged to provide support with embedding risk management in the Department, to include a review of the existing risk management framework, recommendations and implementation plans.
- Consultants were engaged to assist in the development of options and recommendations about the future organisational structure of the Department in order to align the high-level management structure of the Department with resources, workloads and priorities.
- HR developed flexible starting and finishing time for non-flexi grades; work-sharing promotions; and activity and wellbeing supports including smoking cessation.

Enhanced supports to assist staff in fulfilling the Department's role and functions

The Department of Health is committed to optimising staff capacity to fulfil their roles via opportunities for learning, skill development, and support in collaborative working. Advancements made in 2019 include:

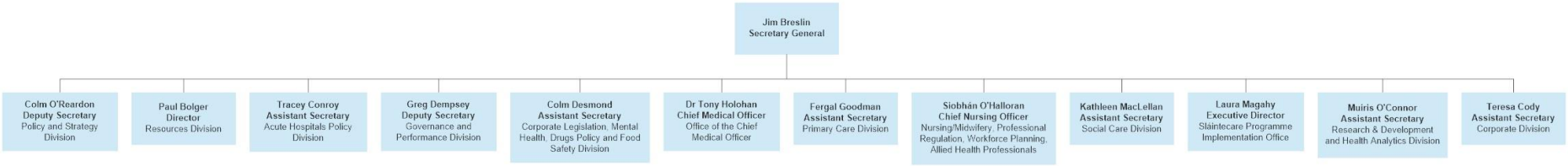
- A Communications Strategy 2029-2023 was co-created with senior management, staff, stakeholders and the public. The Department of Health website went live on gov.ie and a social

media presence has been cultivated for the Department, launching Facebook and Instagram accounts. By the end of 2019, the Department Twitter account had 22,700 followers.

- The Department's digital strategy has resulted in content reaching extensive audiences.
- The Department of Health's Safety Statement was updated and published.
- A Contract Register was developed by Internal Procurement.
- The Department provided guidance and support to units to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and State Boards appointment process, including an information session for all Staff. All agencies were in compliance in 2019.
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018. The EU regulation enhances individual's privacy rights and imposes significant addition obligations on all organisations that process data. The Data Protection Unit in the Department of Health is led by the Data Protection Officer (DPO). The role of the DPO is set out in legislation and involves providing information and advice on data protection legislation, raising awareness, training staff, conducting audits and being the point of contact with the data subjects and the Data Protection Commission.
- An external consultancy support project in relation to GDPR compliance was completed in April 2019, this included a gap analysis, the development of a compliance strategy and data protection training.
- The Record of Processing Activities (ROPA) was reviewed and updated in 2019. The ROPA is a requirement of the GDPR, and details how personal data is processed by each unit.
- Data Protection Unit developed new resources to assist staff which were approved by Management Board in 2019. These policies and procedures were made available to all staff on the Department's intranet and included the development and delivery of an eLearning GDPR training course for all staff in the Department in 2019. The training is compulsory and there is ongoing access for new staff.

Appendix 1 Corporate Information

Department of Health Management Board 2019



Corporate Profile

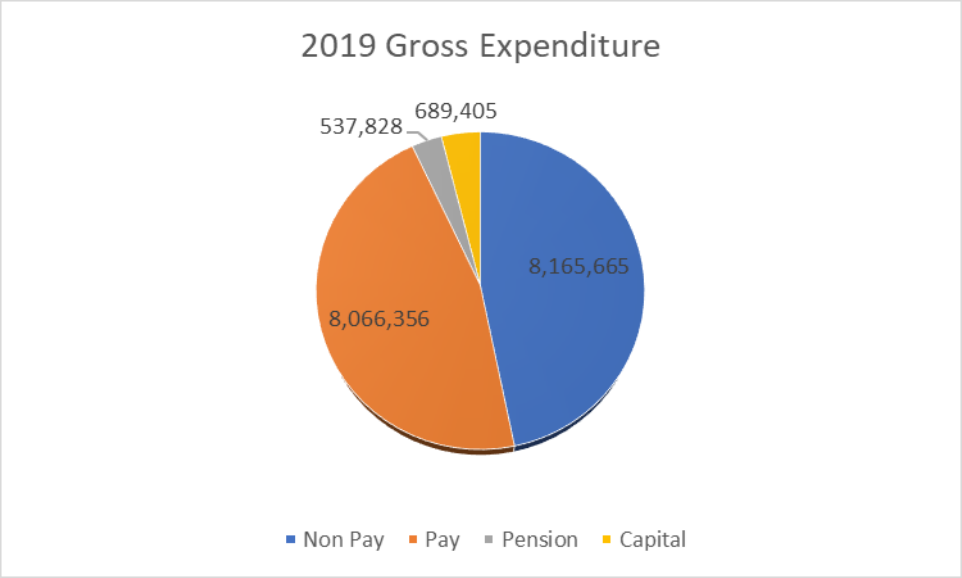
At the end of December 2019, there were 521 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff in the Department of Health. In addition to supporting the Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D., the staff of the Department also supported Ministers of State Finian McGrath T.D., Minister of State Catherine Byrne T.D., and Minister of State Jim Daly T.D.

The Department of Health has responsibility for implementation of 139 (18%) of the 776 commitments in the Programme for a Partnership Government.

The Department managed a gross budget of over €17.49bn in 2019, of which €383m was supplied by way of supplementary estimate. Budgeted appropriations-in-aid in the year were €0.46bn, leaving a net budget of €17.03bn.

Gross expenditure in the year was €17.459bn and appropriations-in-aid were €464m. This resulted in net expenditure of €16.995m

Gross expenditure incurred by the Department of Health in the year represented 20% of total general government expenditure in the year. Net expenditure represented 26% of central government exchequer issues in the year. €17.15bn of gross expenditure in the year was consisted of disbursements to the HSE, €184m to other agencies with €125m incurred by the Department.



Non Pay	Pay	Pension	Capital
8,165,665	8,066,356	537,828	689,405

The Department of Health answered over a quarter (26.2%) of all the Parliamentary Questions posed in 2019. A total of 47,157 PQs passed through the Oireachtas and the Department of Health processed 12,355 of these questions

2019 Parliamentary Responses at a Glance

Parliamentary Questions (excluding withdrawn/disallowed)	**12,355**
Of which referred to the HSE for Direct Reply	8,215
Notes for Leaders Questions prepared	**590**
Representations Received	**6,877**
Topical Issues Prepared	516
Topical Issues Selected	**140**
Seanad Commencement Prepared	168
Seanad Commencement Selected	**49**

The Department also processed 582 FOI requests in 2019, 407 of which were from the media.

Prompt Payment

An analysis of the Department's Prompt Payments obligations during 2019 is as follows:

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of total number of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	3,084	19,170,024.30	95.2%
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	295	940,314.89	4.7%
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days	48	27,486.01	0.1%
Total payments made in 2019	3,427	20,137,825.20	

The total prompt payment compensation and interest paid by the Department in 2019 was €2,551.24, comprising €361.24 in interest payments and €2,190.00 in compensation payments.

Energy usage in 2019

The Department continued to work closely with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to achieve targets for energy reduction in its HQ at Miesian Plaza. This extremely complex building incorporates a wide range of energy efficient technologies and measures to minimise the energy footprint of the premises which is part of a wider, shared facility, comprising three buildings, four government departments and two private sector companies.

The technologies utilised to achieve this exacting energy target include low energy fan coil units, high efficiency air-conditioning cooling systems including thermal storage and low energy ventilation systems. Environmentally, the benefits of the building design include:

- Less harmful emissions/pollutants to the environment
- Reclaimed energy for heating otherwise lost through waste exhaust
- Reclaimed water for re-use
- Minimised electricity consumption through energy-efficient lighting fixtures and controls

In 2019, the Department established the "Green Team" for its HQ which assigns responsibility for environmental awareness on a floor by floor basis and defines and implements green strategy initiatives across the building.

Some of the initiatives included poster campaigns for "power down times" and "chill out" days and a continuance of the "No Bin at Your Desk" policy to encourage recycling. Corporate Services have also defined green procurement guidelines for consideration by those engaged in purchasing for and on behalf of the Department.

Appendix 2 Agencies under the aegis of the Department

Non-Commercial State Bodies

Dental Council
Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Food Safety Promotion Board - Safefood
Health Information and Quality Authority
Health Insurance Authority
Health Products Regulatory Authority
Health Research Board
Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU)
Health Service Executive
Irish Blood Transfusion Service
Medical Council
Mental Health Commission
National Cancer Registry Board
National Paediatric Hospital Development Board
National Treatment Purchase Fund
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council

Commercial State Bodies

Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI)

Appendix 3 Legislation

All legislation prepared during 2019 is available on our website at https://health.gov.ie/publications-research/legislation/

Bills published

5 Bills were published in 2019:

1. Regulated Professionals (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Bill 2019
2. CervicalCheck Tribunal Bill 2019
3. Health and Childcare Support (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2019
4. Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2019
5. Patient Safety (Notifiable Patient Safety Incidents) Bill 2019

Legislation enacted

5 Acts were enacted during 2019:

1. Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2019
2. Health Service Executive (Governance) Act 2019
3. CervicalCheck Tribunal Act 2019
4. Health and Childcare Support (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2019
5. Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2019

Statutory Instruments

The Department prepared and processed 50 Statutory Instruments during 2019:

1. European Communities (Official Controls on the Import of Food of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
2. Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (Section 28a) (Counsellors and Psychotherapists Registration Board) Regulations 2019
3. European Communities (Human Tissues and Cells Traceability Requirements, Notification of Serious Adverse Reactions and Events and Certain Technical Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
4. European Communities (Quality and Safety of Human Tissues and Cells) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
5. Medicinal Products (Safety Features on Packaging) Regulations 2019
6. Health Services (Amendment) Regulations 2019
7. Health Repayment Scheme (Donations) Fund Account
8. Special Account for The Purposes of the Health (Repayment Scheme) Act 2006
9. Consolidated Patients Private Property Accounts for the Year End December 2017
10. Health (Residential Support Services Maintenance and Accommodation Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
11. Data Protection Act 2018 (Section 36(2)) (Health Research) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
12. Medicinal Products (Control of Wholesale Distribution) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
13. Medicinal Products (Control of Placing on the Market) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
14. Medicinal Products (Control of Manufacture) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
15. European Union (Food Additives) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
16. Misuse of Drugs (Prescription and Control of Supply of Cannabis for Medical Use) Regulations 2019

17. Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2019
18. Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 2019
19. Health Service Executive (Governance) Act 2019 (Commencement) Order 2019
20. Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017 (Payments in Respect of Certain Services Under the Health Act 1970) Regulations 2019
21. Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2018 (Commencement) Order 2019
22. European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
23. European Union (Special Conditions Governing the import of Certain Food from Certain Third Countries due to Contamination Risk by Aflatoxins) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
24. European Communities (Official Controls on the Import of Food of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2019
25. Medical Council Statement of Strategy 2019 – 2023
26. National Treasury Management Agency (Delegation of Functions) (Amendment) Order 2019
27. National Treasury Management Agency (Delegation of Claims for Costs Management Functions) (Amendment) Order 2019
28. Health Act 2004 (Section 40h) (Relevant Day) Order 2019
29. European Union (Basic Safety Standards for Protection Against Dangers arising from Medical Exposure to Ionising Radiation) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2019
30. European Communities (Official Controls on the Import of Food of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2019
31. Health Act 1970 (Section 45A(7)) (Classes Of Payments) Regulations 2019
32. Health Act 1970 (Section 58A(8)) (Classes Of Payments) Regulations 2019
33. European Union (Food Intended for Infants and Young Children, Food for Special Medical Purposes, and Total Diet Replacement for Weight Control) Regulations 2019
34. Health Insurance Act 1994 (Section 11E(3)) (No. 3) Regulations 2019
35. Medical Council Annual Report and Financial Statements
36. Public Health (Alcohol) (Fixed Payment Notice) Regulations 2019
37. Health Insurance Act 1994 (Section 11E(3)) (No. 3) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
38. Infectious Diseases (Preventative Measures) (HIV PrEP) Regulations 2019
39. Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 (Parts 2 And 3) (Commencement) Order 2019
40. Children and Family Relationships (Amendment) Act 2018 (Commencement) Order 2019
41. Civil Registration Act 2019 (Section 13) (Commencement) Order 2019
42. Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 (Consent to Use Declaration) Regulations 2019
43. Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 (Consent to Parentage Declaration) Regulations 2019
44. Children and Family Relationships Act 2015 (Certification) Regulations 2019
45. Misuse of Drugs (Prescription and Control of Supply of Cannabis for Medical Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2019
46. Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017 (Payments to Community Pharmacy Contractors) Regulations 2019
47. Misuse of Drugs (Prescription and Control of Supply of Cannabis for Medical Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2019

48. Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017 (Section 42) (Payments to General Practitioners) Regulations 2019
49. Health (Out-Patient Charges) Regulations 2019
50. Health Products Regulatory Authority (Fees) Regulations 2019

Appendix 4 Department of Health Publications

In 2019 the Department produced 67 publications all of which are available for download on our website at https://health.gov.ie/publications-research/publications/.

1. Department of Health Consolidate Pay Scales with effect from 1 January 2019
2. National Women and Infants Health Programme: Annual Report 2017
3. One Health Report on Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance
4. National Cancer Strategy Implementation Report 2018
5. Housing Options for Our Ageing Population Policy Statement
6. Prevalence of Drug Use and Gambling Survey: Gambling Results
7. Independent Review Group examining role of Voluntary Organisations
8. Interim Report of the Expert Group for the management of clinical negligence claims
9. Sláintecare Action Plan 2019
10. 1st April 2019 Consolidated Pay Scales and Department of Health Circular 6/2019
11. Department of Health Policy Review of the National Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) Service
12. Fourth Interim Report of the Farrelly Commission of Investigation
13. Smile agus Sláinte – National Oral Health Policy
14. Healthy Ireland: Get Involved
15. Healthy Ireland: The Food Pyramid
16. Healthy Ireland: Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025
17. Healthy Ireland: Healthy Workplaces
18. Healthy Ireland: Healthy Ireland outcomes framework
19. Healthy Ireland: Healthy Ireland Survey 2018
20. Department of Health Open Beds Report February 2019
21. Report of the Independent Expert Review of Delayed Discharges
22. Primary Care Centres Progress Report
23. Sláintecare Action Plan Report Q1 Deliverables
24. National Treatment Purchase Fund Special Audit Programme 2018
25. National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2019 – 2022
26. National Dementia Strategy
27. Fifth Interim Report of the Farrelly Commission of Investigation
28. Health in Ireland: Key Trends 2018
29. Positive Ageing Indicators 2018
30. Scoping Inquiry into the CervicalCheck Screening Programme: Supplementary Report
31. Strategic Review of Medical Training and Career Structure: Ninth Progress Report
32. Fifth Annual Report on the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013
33. Adult Safeguarding Policy
34. National Plan for Phase-down to Phase-out of Amalgam towards 2030
35. Department of Health Open Beds Report April 2019
36. Department of Health (2019). Diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with oesophageal or oesophagogastric junction cancer (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No.19)

37. Department of Health (2019). Diagnosis and staging of patients with ovarian cancer (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No. 20)
38. Department of Health (2019). Appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medication for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia (NCEC National Clinical Guideline No. 21)
39. A Policy on the Development of Graduate to Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice
40. Final Report on the Enhanced Care Model
41. Towards a Model of Integrated Person-centred Care: Findings from the Public Consultation on Geographic Alignment of Hospital Groups and Community Healthcare Organisations
42. Sláintecare Mid-Year Report 2019
43. Tobacco Free Ireland 2018 Annual Report
44. Delivering Sláintecare
45. Sláintecare in Action
46. Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025
47. The Working Group to Consider Alternative Approaches to the Possession of Drugs for Personal Use
48. 1st September 2019 Consolidated Pay Scales and Department of Health Circular 10/2019
49. Department of Health Open Beds Report May 2019
50. Report of the Independent Review Group established to examine private activity in public hospitals
51. Department of Health Open Beds Report June 2019
52. Department of Health Open Beds Report for July 2019
53. Department of Health Annual Report 2018
54. Third Interim Report of the Farrelly Commission of Investigation
55. Department of Health Open Beds Report for August 2019
56. Protected Disclosures Annual Report 2018
57. Department of Health Open Beds Report for September 2019
58. CervicalCheck non-disclosure ex-gratia Scheme Terms of Reference
59. Expert Panel Review of Cervical Screening (RCOG)
60. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard Proposals: Report on the Public Consultation
61. Sixth Interim Report of the Farrelly Commission of Investigation
62. 1 January 2020 Consolidated Pay Scales
63. Department of Health Open Beds Report for October 2019
64. National Women and Infants Health Programme: Annual Report 2018
65. Report to the Minister for Health on an Evaluation and Analysis of Returns for 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 including advice on Risk Equalisation Credits
66. Report of the Inter-Departmental Working Group established to examine the health and wellbeing recommendations contained in the First Report of the Collaborative Forum
67. Health in Ireland - Key Trends 2019