Health Budget Oversight Group Minutes

25th June 2020. 2:30pm

Health Service Executive:	Stephen Mulvany, Tim Cummins, Colum Maddox, Nigel O'Keefe, Damien McCallion, Mark O'Connor, Pat Healy, Tony Patterson.
Department of Health:	Paul Bolger, Kevin Colman, Caoimhe Dolan, David Bolger, Denise McCarthy, Eoin Halpin, Matthew Dignam, Aidan Gilchrist, Evan Walker, Mark Hennessy, Shane Corr, Sharon Gilligan,
D/Public Expenditure & Reform:	Ronnie Downes (Chair), David Owens, Terry Jennings, Patrick Moran, Deirdre Collins, Robert Scott, Cian McCarthy, Albert Morris.

1. **Minutes & Agenda**

Minutes from the previous HBOG meeting from 18th June 2020, with amendments from Department of Health, were agreed.

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

   - **Logged queries – state-of-play**

A query was raised regarding the extent to which certain lines in the Flash Reports were on a gross or net basis. The HSE agreed to host a technical meeting with DPER and D/Health colleagues, to go through the Reports in detail and to make it clear on which basis the expenditure has been reported.

3. **COVID-19 Reporting and Monitoring**

Private Nursing Homes –

It was noted that the three month period for TAPS was coming to an end, and that a decision on the extension of the scheme must be made shortly. D/Health informed the group that the service area, and the Chief Medical Officer, are of the view that the scheme should be extended for a further three months, to mitigate any potential risks.

D/Health were informed that this decision can be made at Departmental level if it is within the already-sanctioned limit.

- **Private Hospitals**

The Group were informed that there remain ongoing problems regarding the finalisation of Service Level Agreements between the HSE and the private hospitals.

The breakdown of the April costs of the agreement are outstanding, and it was requested that these and other outstanding information requests be supplied without delay.

- **PPE Procurements**

A letter has been issued to the Secretary General of the Department of Health from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the urgent requirement for an updated sanction request for PPE already procured. The Group were informed that a response from the Secretary General would be issued in the coming days.

It was acknowledged on all sides that the need for sanction to cover PPE expenditure was a serious issue, in light also of the scale of expenditure in question. The exact amount of expenditure incurred to date was not available to the Group and this was requested.

- **Citywest**

Notice was issued by the HSE Estates Division to terminate the license agreement on the earliest possible date. An inquiry was also made as to whether the agreement could be terminated sooner than the end of the 120 day notice period.

The Group was informed that it is difficult in the current climate to make use of the facility for an alternative purpose.

It was noted that a *post hoc* assessment of this agreement would be useful.

4. Health Budget Profile and Monitoring

The end-year 2019 HSE Management Data Reports are still outstanding, but will be shared with all parties in the coming days.

5. AOB

The Group agreed that a representative from the State Claims Agency should be invited to a future HBOG meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for 9th July 2020, 2:30pm.