



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

PAC-R-594

Correspondence 3A.8  
Meeting – 20/09/2012

Health Service Executive  
Parliamentary Affairs Division  
Block D, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Parkgate Business Centre  
Parkgate Street  
Dublin 7

Tel. (01) 635 2505

Fax (01) 635 2508

Web: <http://www.hse.ie/go/rialtas>

7<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Ms. Fiona Cashin,  
Committee Secretariat,  
Committee of Public Accounts,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2



Dear Ms. Cashin,

In my response to you on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012, the HSE submitted a series of replies to a number of follow up issues from our appearance at the recent PAC meeting and indicated that we were working on the remaining issues.

In that regard please find here under for the attention of the Committee the HSE responses to the outstanding issues raised.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Mitchell  
Assistant National Director  
Parliamentary & Regulatory Affairs

***2. A note outlining the savings that will be achieved on the cost of medicines for 2012.***

**Response:**

The National Service Plan 2012 set out the policies, supported by legislative changes, to provide scope for driving further reductions in drug pricing. These initiatives were designed to generate full year savings totalling at least €100m this year. Their delivery was dependent upon agreement with the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA) among others together with the enactment of the requisite legislation by Government. These savings have not yet been delivered as negotiations to date have failed to achieve the requisite quantum of savings. Additionally, the National Service Plan 2012 did not provide additional funding for the introduction of new drugs during 2012. The decision to introduce new drugs creates an additional cost pressure for Schemes which will have to be considered in the context of total Schemes expenditure this year

***3. A note outlining the difference between what the HSE pay for medicines and what the NHS pays for similar drugs.***

**Response:**

It has been estimated that if the prices of both on and off patent medicines were reduced to UK equivalent prices, a saving of €50m would result. The currency position, at the time a comparison is made, impacts on the estimate.

***11. A breakdown within ranges stating the amount of allowances paid from the Vote in 2010 in relation to rest days claimed by hospital consultants.***

**Response:**

With regard to the taking of Historic Rest Days by Consultant Medical Staff, a total of 31 doctors were beneficiaries of this arrangement in the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. The following are the numbers within particular pay ranges:

Number	Amounts Range
4	190 – 200k
4	175 – 190k
1	150 – 175k
2	125 – 150k
4	100 – 125k
3	75 – 100k
2	50 – 75k
3	25 – 50k
4	15 – 25k
4	Less than 15k