



# An Roinn Sláinte Department of Health

**Annual Report 2017**

## Contents

Introduction by the Minister for Health Simon Harris .....	3
Foreword by the Secretary General .....	4
The Department's Mission .....	5
Role of the Department .....	5
Statement of Strategy .....	6
Strategic Objectives:.....	6
Strategic Objective 1: Support People to lead healthy and independent lives .....	7
Strategic Objective 2: Ensure the delivery of high quality and safe health and social care.....	9
Strategic Objective 3: Create a more responsive, integrated and people-centred health and social care service .....	10
Strategic Objective 4: Promote effective and efficient management of the health services .....	13
Strategic Objective 5: Develop a high-performing Department to lead and oversee the health and social care sector .	16
Appendix 1 Corporate Information .....	17
Appendix 2 Agencies under the aegis of the Department.....	21
Appendix 3 Legislation .....	22
Appendix 4 Department of Health Publications .....	24

## INTRODUCTION BY THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH SIMON HARRIS

I welcome the publication of the Department's Annual Report for 2017.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Department's officials and my Minister of State colleagues, Minister of State Finian McGrath with special responsibility for Disabilities, Minister of State Catherine Byrne with special responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy, and Minister of State Jim Daly with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, all of whom contributed greatly to the achievements of the Department during 2017.

In line with Government Policy, Minister of State McGrath secured full medical cards for children in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance. In July, Minister of State Byrne launched the eight-year strategy *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery*, a health led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland. Under the stewardship of Minister of State Daly an evidence based review of *A Vision for Change* for Mental Health was finalised and a review committee was established.

There are many further improvements required in our health service but a balanced assessment would also recognise the really good work that takes place every day. With the Health Service Executive and the Health Information and Quality Authority, my Department led the first ever National Patient Experience Survey in 2017. The survey showed, in overall terms, that 84% of respondents rated their hospital stay as good or very good.

The important work of the Department continued during 2017. The Government is committed to delivering more non-acute care within the primary care setting, so that better care close to home can be provided for communities around the country. The expansion of the range of services and capacity available within primary and community care will help to keep people well and reduce the number of patients admitted to hospitals. In 2017 we invested significantly in our primary care infrastructure providing modern well equipped Primary Care Centres, which allow our Primary Care Teams and GPs to be located together enabling the delivery of a wider a range of integrated primary care services. At the end of 2017, 110 Primary Care Centres were operational with a further 18 expected to become operational throughout 2018.

None of these developments would have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of staff involved. I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the Secretary General, the Management Board and all officials at the Department of Health.



Simon Harris TD  
Minister for Health

## FOREWORD BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2017 was another busy year for the Department of Health, continuing the work of implementing priorities identified under the Programme for Government.

There were additions to our workload following the publication of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Future of Healthcare. The Department is committed to implementing the recommendations in this Report and progressing our strategic objectives and priority actions as outlined in our Statement of Strategy 2016-2019.

Initiatives being progressed by the Department are having a real impact on the health and wellbeing of our citizens. For example, Ireland was recognised by the World Health Organization for tobacco control efforts, a new National Cancer Strategy was launched in 2017 and the Healthy Ireland movement continues to grow in supporting people to make healthy choices in their lives. Progress continued in 2017 on important steps to plan and reform our health services, including the finalisation of the Economic and Social Research Institute's projections for demand for healthcare in Ireland 2015 – 2030, the Health Service Capacity Review to 2031, and the National Strategic Framework for Health and Social Care Workforce Planning.

We were ultimately unsuccessful in winning the bid for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency to Dublin but, working with a range of public bodies, most notably the Health Products Regulatory Authority and the IDA, we led a highly professional campaign which delivered on all the criteria and won widespread praise.

Alongside a significant programme of policy development the Department prepared 40 Statutory Instruments and dealt with almost 11,500 Parliamentary Questions and 351 Freedom of Information requests. Our growing legislative output saw six new pieces of primary legislation enacted and four bills published.

I would like to thank all the staff of the Department for their hard work and professionalism over the course of a very busy 2017, which also marks our final year in Hawkins House. We look forward to the next chapter in our new headquarters in Miesian Plaza, Baggot Street.



**Jim Breslin**  
Secretary General

This annual report for the Department of Health 2017 outlines achievements and areas where significant progress was made in 2017 against the objectives outlined in our Statement of Strategy 2016 - 2019.

## THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION

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

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

## ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The role of the Department 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 5 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.

In the following sections we give details of our achievements and the progress made in 2017 measured against each of our strategic objectives.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: SUPPORT PEOPLE TO LEAD HEALTHY AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

Irish people are living longer and staying healthier for longer. The Department of Health is committed to promoting awareness of the benefits of healthy living and supporting healthy lifestyle changes. The Healthy Ireland initiative has cross Government support, encouraging people to make their own healthy choices. Prevention of illness, 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. Initiatives are also underway seeking to address obesity levels, to promote healthy eating and to increase physical activity levels.

During 2017 the Healthy Ireland fund was established. The Healthy Ireland Network was launched, *Nutritional Standards for School Meals* were launched and the *Healthy Ireland Survey Wave 3* was published.

A *Healthy Workplace Framework* is being developed by the Department of Health and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. In May we launched a public consultation on a new *Healthy Workplace Framework*, providing guidance which can be adapted to any workplace setting to help create and sustain healthy workplaces throughout Ireland.

The report *Be Winter Ready* campaign was launched and additional resources were allocated to increase influenza vaccination. Initial returns indicate that influenza vaccination uptake by health care workers in hospitals increased from 32% in Winter 2016/17 to 45% for Winter 2017/18. There was also an increase for health care workers in long term care facilities where the rate increased from 28% in Winter 2016/17 to 33% in Winter 2017/18. In addition, uptake in people over 65 years of age and residents in long term care facilities increased from 55% in Winter 2016/17 to 68% in Winter 2017/18.

A public consultation was held to help inform the development of a new statutory scheme and system of regulation for homecare services. The purpose of the public consultation was to find out what people think about current home care services – what is working well and what needs to be improved, as well as their views on what the future scheme should look like. Over 2,600 responses were received.

There was also an initiative to increase Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) uptake rates for the 2017/2018 academic year to give protection against cancer causing viruses. Uptake rates for 2017 at 51%, falls short of the 75% target. HPV immunisation gives protection against cancer-causing viruses.

In 2017 the World Health Organization (WHO) awarded the Department of Health a prestigious World No Tobacco Day Award for its achievement in the area of tobacco control.

The legislation for the standardised packaging of tobacco came into force in September 2017 - the aim of which is to make all tobacco packs look less attractive to consumers, to make health warning more prominent and to prevent packaging from misleading consumers about the harmful effects of tobacco.

The Public Health (Alcohol) Bill was passed by Seanad Eireann in December. The enactment of the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill is a commitment under the Programme for a Partnership Government and it is on track for enactment in 2018.

In 2017 the Department launched *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery – a health led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017 – 2025*, which lays out the direction of Government policy on drug and alcohol use until 2025. The strategy contains a 50 point Action Plan to 2020, with scope to develop further actions between 2021 and 2025.

Additional funding was secured in the budget for social inclusion. This will be used to address the health needs of people who are homeless and have mental health and addiction issues. It will also assist in responding to the pressing health needs of refugees arriving in Emergency Reception & Orientation Centres.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF HIGH QUALITY AND SAFE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

When a person requires health or social services, these services must be of high quality. Some of the developments towards achieving this objective which took place in 2017 are outlined below.

The first ever National Patient Experience Survey took place with 26,635 patients from 40 hospitals across Ireland invited to participate. With a response rate of 51%, that is 13,706 participants, it is the largest survey on patients' care in Ireland. The survey gave patients an opportunity to describe their experiences. A national report, a report for each of the six hospital groups and a report for 39 acute hospitals across the country were produced. 84% of respondents indicate that their experience of their hospital stay was good or very good.

In December 2017 Government approval was given to the Department to publish draft outline proposals on deprivation of liberty which propose safeguards for older people, persons with a disability and certain categories of people with mental health issues to ensure that they are not unlawfully deprived of their liberty in residential facilities.

During 2017 the Department secured approval for Ireland's first *National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2017 – 2020*, along with the Department for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The National Action Plan on AMR is to ensure the availability of effective antibiotic treatment options for both humans and animals, with safe medicines that are quality-assured, used in a responsible way, and accessible to all who need them. This ambitious 3-year Plan contains a range of strategic interventions across the three *One Health* sectors;

- human health,
- animal health and
- the environment.

In a historic development in the modernisation of our mental health services 2017 saw the award of contract and commencement of construction on the main project for a new modern forensic mental health facility in Portrane, Co Dublin to replace the Central Mental Hospital in Dundrum. Phase 1 of the project comprises a new 120 bed hospital, along with a new 10 bed Child and Adolescent Mental Health unit and a new 10 bed Mental Health Intellectual Disability unit. Significant additional capital funding was provided in Budget 2017 to progress the project, including a 30 bed Intensive Care Rehabilitation Unit at Portrane.

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: CREATE A MORE RESPONSIVE, INTEGRATED AND PEOPLE-CENTRED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICE

It is important that people have access to the health services that they need when they need them. The *Sláintecare* report has identified the importance of further development of integrated care, advances in primary care delivery, additional home care, increases of transition and long stay beds.

The publication of the Report of the Committee on the Future of Healthcare in May marked a critical milestone in the history of our health service and will provide a solid framework for health services planning and development over the next decade. During 2017 the Department undertook detailed work on the implementation of the *Sláintecare* recommendations and initiated the establishment of the *Sláintecare* Programme Office.

Legislation to ensure that 9,800 children in receipt of a Domiciliary Care allowance, who have a disability, receive a full medical card became effective from 1 June 2017.

The Task Force on Personalised Budgets, to give people with disabilities more choice and control in accessing personal social services, completed its work. A report is due in 2018.

The development of primary care services continued, including enabling the support of complex paediatric cases at home, growing Community Intervention Team capacity and bringing new Primary Care Centres into operation.

A range of initiatives and services, provided in a primary care setting can prevent unnecessary hospital admission or attendance and facilitate early discharge of patients. Paediatric Home Care Packages support the discharge of seriously ill children from acute hospital services into the care of their families. There is an increasing demand for these packages: 474 paediatric homecare packages were supported in 2016 and 507 in 2017.

Community Intervention Teams are specialist nurse led health professional teams which provides a rapid and integrated response to a patient with an acute episode of illness who requires enhanced services/acute intervention for a defined short period of time. There were over 34,500 referrals to the service in 2017 which exceeded the expected activity by 15%. The programme saved 27,794 hospital bed days. This equates to 76 hospital beds each day.

The Report of the Trauma Steering Group was completed in 2017. Recommendations in the report address the five phases of the trauma care pathway, including prevention of trauma, pre-hospital care and retrieval, reception and intervention, reconstruction and ongoing care and rehabilitation.

The Department, working with the HSE and the Children's Hospital Group, developed a Scoliosis Waiting List Action Plan to deliver short and medium term reductions in scoliosis waiting lists. During 2017, there was a significant increase in activity in both Crumlin and Temple Street Hospitals as a result of the Action Plan, with 321 surgeries taking place in these hospitals in 2017 compared to 220 in 2016, representing a 46% increase in activity.

Significant progress has been made on the development of Hospital Group Boards. Recent appointments to the RCSI, South/South West, Saolta and Ireland East Hospital Group Boards were made following a successful State Boards recruitment campaign.

In 2017, the National Ambulance Service went live with the first phase of their Electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR) system. The ePCR system was rolled out to all bases in Cork City and County. The ePCR system will allow the collection of patient data on a handheld computer, replacing the existing paper based patient care report form currently used. ePCR will give the ability to analyse patient data, supporting the future development of care, service delivery and patient outcomes.

In 2017, at the request of the Department, HIQA undertook a Health Technology Assessment to evaluate treatment and transfer options for patients who require a Priority 1 aeromedical transfer to the UK. A private provider is now in place thus ensuring that a 24 hour service continues to be available.

The *National Cancer Strategy* was launched in July. This Strategy is about preventing cancer across our population; diagnosing cancer early; providing optimal care to patients; and maximising their quality of life while ensuring the delivery of evidence-based high-quality services throughout. This Strategy won the Excellence in Policy category at the 2017 Civil Service Excellence and Innovation Awards.

Record numbers of individuals took part in the national screening programmes, BreastCheck, BowelScreen and CervicalCheck. Efforts are on going to increase uptake rates for BowelScreen, particularly among men.

The Programme for a Partnership Government commits to implementing the National Maternity Strategy and work to facilitate its implementation is ongoing. Indeed, steps to realise the vision of the Strategy and turn plans into action received a significant boost in 2017. The HSE National Women & Infants Health Programme was established to lead the management, organisation and delivery of maternity, neonatal and gynaecological services across the continuum of primary, community and acute care. The Programme is also leading the implementation of the Strategy.

To this end, the Programme developed a detailed Strategy Implementation Plan, which was launched by the Minister in October 2017.

Additional funding for maternity services in 2017 provided for additional staff, development of specialist bereavement teams, the establishment of maternity networks and implementation of Phase 1 of the Maternal and Newborn Clinical Management System. All of these developments have, and will continue to, deliver tangible benefits for the 80,000 families who access maternity care each year.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: PROMOTE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE HEALTH SERVICES

To effectively deliver health services for the population of Ireland, there must be an effective and efficient workforce delivering these services, supported by appropriate systems of governance.

The Department provides oversight of the performance of the HSE in relation to the delivery of the services set out in the National Service Plan. In this context, the Department holds the HSE to account for the delivery of high quality services across the four equally important domains of:

- i. access to services,
- ii. the quality and safety of those services,
- iii. doing this within the financial resources available and
- iv. effectively harnessing the efforts of the workforce.

The main vehicle to achieve this aim is through an on going monthly performance management process where the HSE reports against the targets set out in the Service Plan. Monthly high-level meetings between management in both organisations are held to discuss on-going or emerging performance issues and to determine actions to resolve and improve areas of concern.

An internal review of the HSE 2017 National Service Plan was carried out and recommendations for improvements to 2018 were implemented. The HSE National Service Plan 2018 was agreed and approved by the Minister for Health and published by the HSE.

*Working Together for Health - A National Strategic Framework for Health and Social Care Workforce Planning* was published in November 2017. It aims to support the recruitment and retention of the right mix of workers across the health and social care system to meet planned and projected service need.

Launched in November at the fourth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health, the Framework entails a consistent approach to strategic workforce planning along with the establishment of structures and governance arrangements that support and enable the application of this approach in the health sector and cross-sectorally, where appropriate.

The Global Forum resulted in the unanimous adoption of the ‘Dublin Declaration’ a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder commitment to improved governance, strategic investments and financing for an effective, performing and sustainable workforce.

An interim report on the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix in General and Specialist Medical and Surgical Care Settings in Adult Hospitals in Ireland was implemented and the pilot programme was extended. Work commenced on Phase 2 of the Taskforce on Staffing and Skill Mix for Nursing. The *Expert Group Review of Nurse Staffing levels in emergency departments* was published.

An Advanced Nurse Practitioner Education Programme was developed and implemented with 120 ANPs in training. All 2017 nursing and midwifery graduates were offered a full-time contract and 80% of the graduates accepted posts.

Significant developments have taken place over the last 3 years to improve the capacity of the health system to move to a digital environment. New national systems are being put in place such as the new medical laboratory platform known as MEDLIS, the continued roll out of the national radiology solution NIMIS, the eReferrals initiative in primary care and the Maternal and New Born System which is transforming the delivery of maternity care.

In line with Statement of Strategy 2016-2019 the Department is working with the HSE and others on a range of capital projects. Achievements during 2017 include the opening of the new Emergency Department in May in University Hospital Limerick.

An Bord Pleanála gave planning permission for the new National Maternity Hospital at St Vincent's University Hospital campus.

The general scheme of the Children's Health Bill 2017 was published to establish a body to run the new Children's Hospital. This Bill will establish a single statutory entity to take over the services of the three existing Dublin children's hospitals, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Temple Street Children's University Hospital, and the National Children's Hospital at Tallaght Hospital, and to run the new children's hospital and the paediatric outpatient and urgent care centres at Connolly and Tallaght Hospitals.

The Health Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2017 provides for revised risk equalisation credits (and corresponding stamp duty levies) on health insurance policies from 1 April 2018 along with legislative amendments arising from a review of Lifetime Community Rating.

The Risk Equalisation Scheme which supports our community-rated market provides risk equalisation credits to insurers for older members and hospital utilisation credits for all insured people admitted to hospital. The legislation was enacted in December 2017.

The number of people holding private health insurance is over 45% of the Irish population as at end June 2017. This represents an increase of over 40,000 from January 2016 to January 2017, and an increase of 5,000 in the first half of 2017.

In February the HSE and Vertex agreed on the commercial terms for the supply to Irish cystic fibrosis (CF) patients of Orkambi (for patients 12 years and older) and for Kalydeco (for patients aged 2-5) from March and for other treatments and age cohorts following market authorisation in Europe. This provides long term assurance on availability of innovative medicines to CF patients.

In 2017 the Department published the Health Products Regulatory Authority's report *Cannabis for Medical Use – A Scientific Review* and established a compassionate access programme for cannabis-based treatments for certain conditions, where patients have not responded to other treatments and there is some evidence that cannabis may be effective. Three licences were granted during 2017.

In 2017, the Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2017 was enacted. This Act provided further conditions for the registration of physiotherapists/physical therapists in the register of physiotherapists in advance of regulation to protect the title of physical therapist.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: DEVELOP A HIGH-PERFORMING DEPARTMENT TO LEAD AND OVERSEE THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SECTOR

In 2017, the Department of Health continued its programme of organisational development in order to deliver on its strategic priorities and. In all, in 2017 the Department employed 434 staff in whole time equivalent terms. There were 87 new recruits and 45 people left the Department during the year, either retiring, moving to different employment or taking a career break.

In line with the Government's policy framework for renewal outlined in *Our Public Service 2020*<sup>1</sup> the Department is fully committed to an ongoing programme of change through the Working Better Together Change Programme which is a core element in our Department's contribution to Civil Service Renewal. Achievements in 2017 included;

- Launch of the Department's 3-year Learning and Development Strategy;
- Overhaul and enhancements to internal communications channels including the Department's intranet;
- Roll-out of a revised approach to business planning for 2017 and business planning/risk management for 2018;
- Improved HR practices including in the matching of staff skills and interest to particular roles;
- Preparations for a pilot knowledge network on legislation as part of an enhanced approach to knowledge management;
- There were 1,018 training days held across all grades, four induction programmes for new staff and underperformance training was held for 98 staff.
- A new project team to oversee the relocation of Department of Health Headquarters was put in place;
- Access to Department of Public Expenditure and Reform *Build to Share* applications was completed.
- Evaluation of the change programme took place, along with consultation regarding the future direction of organisation development in the Department.
- A revised risk policy was prepared and a Risk Officer appointed to strengthen risk management processes.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ops2020.gov.ie/resources/Our-Public-Service-2020-PRINT.pdf>



# APPENDIX 1 CORPORATE INFORMATION



## An Roinn Sláinte Department of Health

Secretary General Jim Breslin



<b>Deputy Secretary</b> Greg Dempsey	<b>Deputy Secretary</b> Colm O'Reardon	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Teresa Cody	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Muiris O'Connor	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Colm Desmond	<b>Chief Medical Officer</b> Dr Tony Holohan	<b>Chief Nursing Officer</b> Dr Siobhan O'Halloran	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Fergal Goodman	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Tracey Conroy	<b>Assistant Secretary</b> Frances Spillane
<b>Governance &amp; Performance</b> DoH/Agency Governance & Clinical Indemnity, FOI, Press & Communications, Parliamentary Affairs, Records Management, Programme Management Office, Internal Audit, Mother & Baby Homes Commission Scheduled & Unscheduled Care, Performance Management Unit	<b>Policy &amp; Strategy</b> Private Health Insurance Legal Unit Universal Health Insurance, Health Systems & Structures Corporate Legislation Unit, Policy, Strategy & Integration Unit	<b>National HR</b> HR & Corporate Services Unit Learning & Development National HR Unit Professional Regulation Unit Working Better Together	<b>Research &amp; Development, Health Analytics</b> EU/International & Research Policy Unit Research Services Unit Information/eHealthPolicy/ External ICT Statistics & Analytics Service	<b>Finance &amp; Evaluation</b> Finance Capital, Finance Accounting, System Financing & Value	<b>Office of the Chief Medical Officer</b> Bioethics, Food & Environmental Health Unit, Health & Wellbeing, Health Protection, National Patient Safety Office Quality Surveillance and Advocacy, Clinical Effectiveness, Tobacco & Alcohol Control	<b>Nursing/ Midwifery, Mental Health, Drugs &amp; Social Inclusion</b> Mental Health Unit, Drugs Policy & Social Inclusion, Nursing Policy & Reform Programme	<b>Primary Care</b> Eligibility Policy Unit, Community Pharmacy, Dental, Optical & Aural, Medicines, Pharmacy Regulation & Controlled Drugs, Primary Care Policy GP Services & Contract Chief Dental Officer	<b>Acute Care</b> Patient Safety & Quality (Acute Hospitals) Maternity Policy Pre Hospital Emergency Care Policy Policy on Hospital Groups including New Children's Hospital HSE Acute Hospitals Performance Oversight North/South Co-operation Trauma Policy Policy on Cancer, Blood and Organs Organ Transplantation Services	<b>Social Care &amp; Disabilities</b> Disability Unit, Older Peoples Projects Community Services for Older People

## Corporate Profile

At the end of December 2017, there were 434 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 the 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 total commitments in the Programme for a Partnership Government.

The Department managed a budget of almost €15bn in 2017, the second largest budget of all Departments, after the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. This allocation was disbursed as €39.87m to the Department, €14.39bn to the HSE, €105.18m to other agencies and €74.5m to research.

Current 2017 Gross Expenditure Health Vote 38.			DPER Databank	Total
Non Pay	Pay	Pension	Capital	
6,796,456	6,901,301	646,858	453,652	14,798,267

The Department of Health has a heavy parliamentary focus and answered 22% of all the Parliamentary Questions posed in 2017. This is an increase of 6% on the 2016 figure. A total of 53,736 PQs passed through the Oireachtas and the Department of Health processed 11,839 of these questions. The profile of parliamentary work carried out in 2017 is set out below.

The Department also processed 351 FOI requests in 2017, 231 of which were from the media.

### 2017 Parliamentary Responses at a Glance

<b>Parliamentary Questions (including withdrawn/disallowed)</b>	<b>11,839</b>
Of which referred to the HSE for Direct Reply	7,902
<b>Notes for Leaders Questions prepared</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Representations Received</b>	<b>7,218</b>
Topical Issues Prepared	343
<b>Topical Issues Selected</b>	<b>93</b>
Seanad Commencement Prepared	137
<b>Seanad Commencement Selected</b>	<b>54</b>

## Prompt Payment

An analysis of the Department's Prompt Payments obligations during 2017 is as follows:

Details	Number	Value (€)	Percentage (%) of <u>total number</u> of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	2,742	6,172,258.15	89
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	273	1,263,269.83	9
Number of payments made in excess of 30 days	56	227,856.74	2
Total payments made in 2017	3,071	7,663,384.72	

The total prompt payment compensation and interest paid by the Department in 2017 was €3,646.58

## Energy usage in 2017

The Department has been participating in the OPW “Optimising Power at Work” scheme since 2007. This is the baseline year. Overall energy consumption in Hawkins House for the period 2017 v 2007 has shown an increase of 7.1%. This is primarily explained by a substantial increase in gas consumption over the year. A 33.3% increase on the base year was evident. This reflects the condition of Hawkins House.

Electricity consumption continued to perform well, at the end of 2017 a saving of 26% was achieved.

Description	Electricity	Gas	Total
<b>Benchmark Year</b>	1,140,467	1,452,118	<b>2,592,585</b>
<b>Previous 12 Months</b>	839,484	1,936,005	<b>2,775,549</b>
<b>% Difference</b>	-26.4%	33.3%	<b>7.1%</b>

The Department continued with a range of initiatives to improve energy performance including:

- Improvements from “turn off” initiative - with a particular focus on all PCs being shut down at 10pm nightly, if they have not already been shut down by the user.
- Monitoring of time clocks on mechanical and electrical systems.
- Monthly energy reporting.
- BMS (Building Maintenance System) Maintenance.

## 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  
Hepatitis C Compensation Tribunal  
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

### **Bills published**

4 Bills of the Department were published in 2017:

1. Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Bill 2017
2. Health (Amendment) Bill 2017
3. Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Bill 2017
4. Health Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2017

### **Legislation enacted**

6 Acts of the Department were enacted during 2017:

1. Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2017
2. Health (Amendment) Act 2017
3. Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Act 2017
4. Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2017
5. Health and Social Care Professionals (Amendment) Act 2017
6. Health Insurance (Amendment) Act 2017

### **Statutory Instruments**

The Department prepared and processed 40 Statutory Instruments during 2017:

1. Health (Out-Patient Charges) Regulations 2017 - S.I. No. 548 of 2017
2. Appointment of Special Adviser (Minister of State at the Department of Health) Order 2017 S.I. No. 526 of 2017
3. Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2017 S.I. No. 533 of 2017
4. Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 2017 S.I. No. 532 of 2017
5. Misuse of Drugs Act 1977 (Controlled Drugs) (Declaration) Order 2017 S.I. No. 531 of 2017
6. Food Hygiene (Revocation of Certain Provisions) Regulations 2017 S.I. No. 528 of 2017
7. Misuse of Drugs (Supervision of Prescription and Supply of Methadone and Medicinal Products containing Buprenorphine authorised for Opioid Substitution Treatment) Regulations 2017 SI No. 522 of 2017
8. Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act 2016 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2017 – SI No. 521 of 2017
9. Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Act 2017 (Commencement) Order 2017 SI No. 517 of 2017
10. Consultative Council on Hepatitis C (Membership) Order 2017 SI No. 510 of 2017
11. Medical Practitioners (Amendment) Act 2017 (Commencement) Order 2017 SI No. 481 of 2017
12. National Treasury Management Agency (Delegation of Claims Management Functions) Order 2017 SI No. 390 of 2017
13. Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (Section 28A)(Optical Registration Board) Regulations 2017 SI No. 436 of 2017
14. Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Older People) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 S.I. No. 430 of 2017

15. Health Act 2007 (Commencement) Order 2017 S.I. No. 429 of 2017
16. Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 S.I. No. 428 of 2017
17. Public Health (Standardised Packaging of Tobacco) Regulations 2017 S.I. No. 422 of 2017
18. Public Health (Sunbeds) (Notification) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 395 of 2017
19. European Communities (Certain Contaminants in Foodstuffs) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 377 of 2017
20. European Union (Addition of Vitamins and Minerals and of Certain Other Substances to Foods) Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 376 of 2017
21. European Union (Specific conditions applicable to the introduction into the Union of consignments from certain third countries due to microbiological contamination) Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 325 of 2017
22. Psychologists Registration Board (Establishment Day) Order 2017 – S.I. no. 324 of 2017
23. European Communities (Official Controls on the import of Food of non-animal origin) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 319 of 2017
24. European Union (Cosmetic Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 297 of 2017
25. Health Professionals (Reduction of Payments to Community Pharmacy Contractors) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 272 of 2017
26. European Union (Manufacture, Presentation and Sale of Tobacco and Related Products) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 252 of 2017
27. European Union (Special Conditions Governing the Import of certain food from certain third countries due to contamination risk by Aflatoxins) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 251 of 2017
28. Health Identifiers Act 2014 (Health Services Provider) Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 237 of 2017
29. Health Identifiers Act 2014 (Commencement) Order 2017 – S.I. No. 236 of 2017
30. Food Standards (Ice-cream) (Revocation) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 195 of 2017
31. Misuse of Drugs (Exemption) Order 2017 – S.I. no. 175 of 2017
32. Misuse of Drugs (Designation) Order 2017 – S.I. No. 174 of 2017
33. Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 173 of 2017
34. Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act 2016 (Commencement) Order 2017 – S.I. No. 172 of 2017
35. Health (Amendment) Act 2017 (Commencement) Order 2017 – S.I. No. 155 of 2017
36. European Union (Nutrition and Health Claims Made on Foods) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. No. 154 of 2017
37. Public Health (Standardised Packaging of Tobacco) Act 2015 (Commencement) Order 2017 – S.I. no. 115 of 2017
38. Commission of Investigation (Certain Matters Relative to a Disability Service in the South East and related matters) Order 2017 – S.I. no. 96 of 2017
39. Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment – S.I. No. 107 of 2017
40. Health (Residential Support Services Maintenance and Accommodation Contributions) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 – S.I. no. 58 of 2017

All legislation prepared during 2017 is available on our website at <https://health.gov.ie/publications-research/legislation/>

## APPENDIX 4 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PUBLICATIONS

In 2017 the Department produced 38 publications all of which are available for download on our website at [www.health.gov.ie](http://www.health.gov.ie).

1	Report on the Newborn Screening Card Archive Forum
2	Interim Report on National Rare Disease Plan for Ireland 2014-2018
3	Interim Report of The Commission of Investigation (Certain matter relative to a disability service in the South East and related matters)
4	Health Research Board Report – Assisted reproductive technologies: International approaches to public funding mechanisms and criteria. An evidence review
5	Tobacco Free Ireland Annual Report 2015
6	Department of Health Consolidated Salary Scales w.e.f. 1/4/2017 in accordance with FEMPI 2015 and the Public Service Stability Agreements 2013 – 2018, (The Lansdowne Road Agreement).
7	Terms of Reference – Commission of Investigation (Certain matters relative to a disability service in the South East and related matters)
8	Health Research Board Report – Approaches to the regulation and financing of home care services in four European countries. An evidence review.
9	Trends in Health Behaviours, Health Outcomes and Contextual Factors between 1998-2014: findings from the Irish Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study
10	Strategic Review of Medical Training and Career Structure: Fifth Progress Report
11	Trends in Public/Private Patient Activity in Public Acute Hospitals
12	Framework for National Performance Indicators for Nursing & Midwifery
13	National Healthcare Quality Reporting System – Annual Report 2017
14	Notifications in Accordance with Section 20 of the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013 – Annual Report 2016
15	A Performance Measurement Framework for Drug and Alcohol Task Forces
16	National Cancer Strategy 2017 - 2026
17	Evidence Review to Inform the Parameters for a Refresh of <i>A Vision for Change</i>
18	Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017 – 2025
19	Department of Health, Acute Hospital Expenditure Review



20	Relocation of the European Medicines Agency to Dublin
21	The General Scheme of the Children's Health Bill 2017
22	Nutrition Standards for School Meals
23	General Scheme of the Assisted Human Reproduction Bill 2017
24	Healthy Ireland Survey 2017
25	Ireland's National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2017-2020
26	Research Programme in Healthcare Reform
27	NTPF Special Audit of Hospital Waiting Lists 2017
28	Be Winter Ready
29	Working Together for Health – A National Strategic Framework for Health and Social Care Workforce Planning
30	Interim Report of The Commission of Investigation (Certain matters relative to a disability service in the South East and related matters)
31	All-Island Civic Dialogue on 'Brexit – Implications for Cross-border Health Co-operation' Summary Report
32	2016 Annual Report on the Tobacco Free Ireland Action Plan.
33	Department of Health Annual Report 2016
34	Report to the Minister for Health on an Evaluation and Analysis of Returns for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 including advice on Risk Equalisation Credits (Redacted)
35	National Youth Mental Health Task Force Report 2017
36	Strategic Review of Medical Training and Career Structure – Sixth Progress Report
37	Health in Ireland Key Trends 2017
38	Report on the Public Consultation Process on Proposals for a Human Tissue Bill