



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Airgeadais  
Feidhmeannacht na  
Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Seomra 125, Ospidéal  
Dr. Steevens  
BÁC 8

Office of the Chief Financial Officer  
Health Service Executive  
Room 125, Dr Steevens  
Hospital  
Dublin 8

15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re PQ 28015 20:** *To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent by his Department and the HSE using a recruitment firm (details supplied) to hire additional staff for the health service since the onset of the Covid-19 crisis in March 2020. Details supplied - CPL*

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. Your PQ above has been referred to me for response.

Please see the table below for the amounts paid to CPL or any variant of CPL for COVID-19 related costs for the period March to August 2020, which is the latest data available.

<b>Total Covid-19 related costs paid to CPL for the period March to August 2020</b>	
<b>HSE Statutory Services only</b>	
<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>*Mar - Aug 2020</b>
	<b>€</b>
CPL HEALTHCARE	241,265
CPL HEALTHCARE LIMITED	2,330,652
CPL HEALTHCARE LTD	268,962
CPL SOLUTIONS	311,104
CPL SOLUTIONS LIMITED	28,528
CPL SOLUTIONS LTD	48,787
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,229,298</b>
<i>Source: HSE HBS National Payment Services</i>	
<i>*Note: Please note 2020 figures are draft only and are subject to change within the year end audit process</i>	
<i>Please note in view of the fact that there are still currently numerous ledger systems in operation in the HSE, there are different variants of company names and some differences in coding may arise.</i>	

The data was sourced from HSE HBS National Payment Services following a search of the COVID-19 cost centres, this spend to CPL was identified and is for HSE Statutory services only. Please note that the 2020 data is draft only and is subject to change within the year end audit process.

In 2020 the HSE have sourced additional agency staff primarily to support the expansion of the workforce in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and also to support service delivery and COVID-19 response due to increased staff absence due to COVID-19.

Due to the immediate nature of the unprecedented emergency, coupled with the additional strain already being felt by the HSE recruitment services, it was necessary to engage outside agencies to assist in this work.

The CPL Group were engaged by the HSE to manage both the on-line platform build and manage the subsequent recruitment processes including Swabbers, Contact Tracers, Student Nurse HCAs and Graduate Nurses.

This includes validating the professional registration, telephone interviews, screening processes, compliance processes such as Garda Vetting and Occupational Health assessments and finally issuing of a contract. CPL also manages the payroll for some of these staff groupings and invoices the HSE for payment against a central cost centre.

Agency expenditure is under constant review and the reduction and control of agency costs continues to be a particular focus for the Health Service. The effective management of variable pay costs forms a major element of operational cost-containment plans and is subject to continuous review at the performance meetings held under the performance and accountability framework. However, it is important to note that in addition to the specific critical response to the COVID-19 pandemic there are a variety of reasons driving agency demand. These include, but are not limited to the replacement of short term illness, maternity leave and challenges to recruiting and retaining Clinical health professionals.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [sarah.anderson1@hse.ie](mailto:sarah.anderson1@hse.ie) or tel: 087 9423319.

Yours sincerely



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Sarah Anderson  
General Manager Corporate Finance  
National Finance Division, HSE  
Email: [sarah.anderson1@hse.ie](mailto:sarah.anderson1@hse.ie)  
Tel: 087 9423319