18th February 2014

Eoghan Murphy TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ50200-13 *The ask the Minister for Health if the chief executive officers of individual hospitals or areas of the health service are responsible for their performance regarding budgeting and so on; and if so to whom are they responsible.- Eoghan Murphy

Dear Deputy,

Response
A key priority for the HSE is to ensure that financial, workforce and service performance across hospital’s is actively managed and reported on in a timely manner. The HSE’s accountability framework ensures that performance is measured against agreed plans and national targets which must be managed in the context of cost reduction, absenteeism, achievement of service targets and productivity.

The accountability structures within the HSE are clear and set out in the HSE’s Code of Governance. This Code of Governance is complimented by a series of protocols and procedures that all HSE and HSE funded agencies must comply with. Examples include the HSE Financial Regulations, information security policies, etc.

Hospitals are divided between those that are statutory and those that are voluntary. Statutory hospital managers will be, in the main, responsible and accountable for their own hospital budget. There may be arrangements where a manager is responsible for a number of hospitals in a group and in such situations, the group hospital manager is response for the budget. Hospital mangers will report into an Integrated Service Area Manager who is, in turn, responsible to a Regional Director of Performance Improvement. The West / North West and University of Limerick Hospital Group CEOs report directly to the National Director of Acute Hospitals.

Voluntary hospital CEOs are responsible for the budget of their hospital and will report to a designated Board of that hospital. Each of these hospitals will have a standard service level agreement signed with the HSE for each operating year.

In 2014 the HSE will progress the establishment of Hospital Groups which will transition to independent trusts. The HSE will develop a Memorandum of Understanding with each Hospital Group which will set out the working arrangements between the Health Service and the Groups. The MOU will deal with key issues including reporting and accountability arrangements and the delegation of authority between the Health Service, hospital groups and Interim Hospital Boards.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely

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Dr. Ciaran Browne
National Lead for Acute Hospital Services and Palliative Care