



FW: Independent Review of Private Practice in Public Hospitals  
Fitzgerald, Michael

to:  
'IRGPrivatePublic@health.gov.ie'

09/02/2018 15:27

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From: "Fitzgerald, Michael" <Michael.Fitzgerald@hse.ie>

To: "'IRGPrivatePublic@health.gov.ie'" <IRGPrivatePublic@health.gov.ie>

History: This message has been replied to.

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**From:** Fitzgerald, Michael

**Sent:** 09 February 2018 15:25

**To:** 'IRGPvivatePublic@health.gov.ie'

**Subject:** Independent Review of Private Practice in Public Hospitals

Sir/Madam,

I wish you to consider the following comments in your review.

I am a Consultant Radiologist in South Tipperary General Hospital in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Most patients who present to HSE Hospitals and Voluntary hospitals are emergency, not elective. Thus most patients will continue to present as currently even if "private" patients are no longer welcome. Thus there will be a huge financial loss to the HSE. Existing services will further crumble with reduced funding.

There will be no sudden capacity increase as all the "private" patients supposedly move elsewhere.

The so called "elsewhere" does not exist for the majority of patients as there are few Private hospitals around the country.

In addition, the existing private hospitals do not want to see the acute or seriously unwell patient and especially not the chronically unwell patient, as they are not financially beneficial .

No private hospital has a 24 hour ED – that alone speaks volumes.

There's already a significant shortfall in Consultants in HSE and Voluntary Hospitals. Failure of salary to match international levels and new entrant salary reductions are undoubted contributing factors. Removing the potential to boost earnings by treating private patients will further add disincentives to recruitment and will drive many existing HSE consultants to employment in a fully private setting. ( see recent consultant movements in Cork if in any doubt)

Loss of experienced consultants to HSE and Voluntary Hospital as well as disincentive to new recruitment will limit capacity to provide satisfactory patient care at all levels, but particularly at highly specialised levels.

I see no clear benefit to the patient from the proposal to remove the Private patient from the HSE/Voluntary Hospital system.

Thanking You,  
Michael FitzGerald