



16th March 2023

Deputy Cullinane
TD Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE: PQ 2916 - 23 *To ask the Minister for Health the number of claims before the Cervical Check Tribunal; the number of claims resolved by the tribunal; the timeframe for completion of the tribunal's work; the cost of the tribunal to date, by cost type; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question for written answer on 24 January 2023. A reply had issued to you in relation to this PQ, and I had indicated that the more specific information requested by you in relation to costs was not readily available at the time. I am pleased to be able to provide the following detail on the costs incurred to date on the Tribunal.

The CervicalCheck Tribunal is based in the Infinity Building in Smithfield in office space that has been fitted out to meet the Tribunal's requirements including:

- Three hearing rooms
- A counter and reception area
- Consultation rooms and a larger meeting room that can be used by claimants and their legal representatives
- Comfortable private rooms for use by claimants when they are not in hearings.
- Offices for Tribunal staff
- Chambers for the Tribunal Members

The amount expended on the fit out for the Tribunal by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to date is €1,627,645. This includes construction fit-out costs, consultants fees, vat and per cent for art allowance. As this was a 'first use' fit out, a significant portion of this expenditure would have been required irrespective of the usage to which the accommodation was put.

The building occupied by the Tribunal is leased by the OPW on a long-term basis. A pro-rata allocation of the leasehold cost entails a spend of €303,144 per annum to provide accommodation for the Tribunal. A further €80,000 on average per annum is spent on service charges. Since occupying the building in 2021, the total costs for rent and service charge to end March is €682,074.99 and €238,277.78

The Tribunal is supported by staff seconded from the Department of Health and the Court Service. For the period to the end of 2022, the remuneration associated with these support staff, including employer's PRSI contribution, is €523,299.

Under the 2019 Act I am required to determine the remuneration of Tribunal Members other than those who are serving judges of the Superior Courts. I can confirm that the ordinary member of the Tribunal who is a retired judge of the Court of Appeal is paid at the rate of remuneration currently applicable to a judge of that Court.

As indicated in the original response, operating costs for the Tribunal, including set up costs, were €399,995.83. Operational costs include daily expenditure for example cleaning, furniture, office supplies, IT requirements. A breakdown by cost type is shown below :

Category	Cost
Expenditure Tribunal Promotion	€15,098.45
Phone and Internet	€1,443.99
Utilities	€23,202.33
Cleaning	€43,912.85
Electricity	€34,075.27
Office supplies	€42,052.48
Furniture	€134,390.60
IT	€50,258.81
Legal	€55,561.05
Total	€399,995.83

The furniture cost relates to initial furniture bought at the beginning of the Tribunal, waiting rooms, chambers, courts, office.

The CervicalCheck Tribunal Act 2019 (the 2019 Act) requires the Tribunal to submit a report to me in respect of its activities during each financial year. This report must include particulars of its accounts. The Annual reports for 2020 and 2021 are published on the Department's website.

I trust this information is satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Donnelly T.D.

Minister for Health