



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta,  
Rannán Cúraim Shóisialaigh,  
CHO 1.  
Bhréifne Cúram Centre  
Béal Átha Conaill  
Co. An Cabhán

Fón +353 (0)49 952 5502

Office of the General Manager  
Services for Older Persons  
Social Care Division  
CHO 1  
Breffni Care Centre  
Ballyconnell  
Co. Cavan

Telephone +353 (0)49 952 5502

Deputy Pearse Doherty  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

16<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **PQ ref 15694/19**

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE reserves the right to terminate contracts it has with private agencies with respect to home support services in County Donegal in order to relinquish responsibility for the provision of such services; the consideration given to the continuity of care for service users in receipt of home supports when terminating contracts; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Doherty

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.

In Co Donegal, the reliance on private providers to provide Home Support is comparatively low (10-15%), due to the Home Care Service’s rolling recruitment programme of HSE staff. This was instigated as a result of the often limited ability of private companies in this area, which continues to be an issue.

The framework for determining the relationship between the HSE and private providers is devised through the National Procurement Office. The principles safeguard the prioritisation of HSE staff when work is available and promotes the practice of having one service provider deliver the entire care package.

As such, it may be necessary for the HSE to intervene at times where a private provider cannot meet the full / increased requirements of a service. This may also occur where capacity emerges within the HSE and / or capacity decreases for the private company.

The Donegal Home Support Service aspires to deliver a patient-centred approach and continuum of care to 2,000 clients across a large rural county by its 500 Home Care Support Assistants.

Consideration must also be given to capacity, efficiency and prudent management of resources, and an inbuilt flexibility is essential to respond to new and emerging critical needs across the hospital sector and in the community. At times this will require compromise and / or rescheduling, as with any frontline health service.

I hope that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Collum,

Bainisteoir Ginearálta,  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta,  
Rannán Cúraim Shóisialaigh,  
CHO 1.

General Manager,  
Services for Older Persons.  
Social Care Division  
CHO 1.