



Danny Healy-Rae, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

PQ: 50161/19

**To ask the Minister for Health if he has had oversight of the selection process for the pharmacy contract for the State-funded primary care centres; if not, if it is a local matter (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Danny Healy-Rae.**

*Is it a local deal with potential sweetheart deals done on the back of taxpayers money*

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 50161/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Applications for a Community Pharmacy Contractor Agreement for Provision of Services under the Health Acts are considered as part of a national standard process within the HSE. As part of that process, it is necessary for a potential contractor for pharmacy services to be registered with the Regulatory Authority for Pharmacists and Pharmacies - the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland - before a contractor agreement with the HSE can be finalised. Section 63 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 addresses the prohibition of certain economic relationships between pharmacists or pharmacies and doctors.

A potential contractor cannot apply for a HSE contractor agreement without specifying the address at which they intend to operate as a 'retail pharmacy business' and the contractor agreement cannot be finalised in the absence of the registration of the premises with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Healy', written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Healy  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service