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29th March 2019

Deputy Pearse Doherty TD Dail Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street Dublin 2.

PQ 12442/19 Question: To ask the Minister for Health if home support services are available for persons under 65 years of age under the care of mental health services; if so, the process by which applications are made; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pearse Doherty

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE provides home supports in many different guises including those provided for people with physical health needs/ disabilities e.g assistance with shopping, activities of daily living such as washing, dressing etc. Specialist secondary care mental health services do not provide these kinds of home supports although those with difficulties requiring home supports can also access specialist mental health services when necessary. The Mental Health Services in general provide care based on a clinical assessment of a person's individual mental health needs. These services are provided by multidisciplinary teams as described in a Vision for Change.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr Sinead Reynolds General Manager Mental Health Services

Building a Better Health Service