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28th March 2019

Deputy Mary Butler Dáil Éireann Kildare Street Dublin 2

Re: PQ 12948/19

Question: To ask the Minister for Health when 2019 applications for funding under section 39 will be accepted, considered and approved; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Butler,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The following outlines the position:

The HSE operate an application/renewal process for grant funding conterminous with the annual planning process, with a deadline for completion of the final Service Arrangements and Grant Aid Arrangements by the 28th February each year.

- The process commences in June each year, when the Governance Documentation is reviewed, to ensure it provides an up to date and relevant control mechanism for the services and funding managed through external agencies for the following year.
- The final National Standard Service Arrangements and Grant Aid Agreements are made available to the Operational system by the end of October the previous year.
- Each Community Health Organisation and Hospital Group manages their application/renewal process, within various service sectors to ensure the negotiation, evaluation and approval process is delivered with final agreement secured by the 28th February each year.

The vast majority of Grant funding applications are now approved for 2019 and the completion of Governance Documentation Grant Aid Agreements and Service Arrangements is in train.

Certain other schemes have different timelines

• The National Lottery Scheme runs annually, with an application deadline of the 30th April 2019 for this year. It is envisioned that the successful applicants will be awarded by the end of September. This year, like last to streamline administration the applicants will have completed the Grant Aid Agreement and all compliance requirements at Application stage.

• Where a service need is identified at a community health organisation level there may be an "expressions of Interest" advertised or sent out to relevant organisations with a deadline relevant to the particular service, for return of response.

Applications for funding may also be made by groups/organisations at any time throughout the year.

Organisations may make application to the HSE through either their Local Community Health Organisation Area or the relevant national care group division.

These applications will then be considered, within the context of the prioritised needs of the population, the availability of funding, and an evaluation of the organisations capacity to deliver the services and their compliance with the requirements of the Governance Framework.

If you require any further information or clarification please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Ration ME Conmick.

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