



Deputy Catherine Murphy,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

28/05/2020

RE PQ 6391/20

**Question**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has put together a specific contract for Covid-19 medical and surgical waste; if so, the details of the contract or contracts; if such waste is being exported, the locations to which it is being exported to; the transport and handling arrangements; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Catherine Murphy**

**Response**

Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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.

**Specific COVID 19 Waste Contract:**

There is no specific contract for COVID19 waste – All Covid-19 waste is covered under the existing contract that the HSE has in place for healthcare risk waste and the waste is treated appropriately as per the terms of that contract.

**Exported Waste – COVID 19:**

The majority of Covid19 waste is treated in Dublin, approx. 1% of the waste requires export for incineration to European outlets. Export Locations European outlets in Denmark, Belgium and Germany.

**Transport and handling arrangements:**

All waste arising from Covid-19, similar to all healthcare risk waste arising from healthcare settings, is packaged in UN approved primary containers such as bags and sharps containers, and transported in UN approved wheeled bins. Waste is collected by suitably trained personnel and transported to one of two EPA licensed facility in Dublin for treatment.

All waste that is exported to mainland Europe for incineration is moved under Trans Frontier Shipment (TFS) Licences on which is specified disposal outlet, shipping line, Transport Company and specific route.

- 1) The HSE has not put in place a specific contract for Covid-19 for medical and surgical waste.
- 2) In December 2018 HSE/HBS Procurement completed a two stage EU procurement process for a new National Contract for the Provision of Hazardous Healthcare Risk Waste Services to the Health Services Executive for the Acute Hospitals, Non Acute Locations and Irish Public Sector Bodies, HSE Ref 2661. The contract was approved by the Board of the HSE and became effective from 02 April 2019. The contract was awarded to Stericycle (SRCL) and is for a duration of 96 months.
- 3) The contract includes provision for the maintenance of the service in the event of pandemic illness and therefore provides cover for the current COVID19 emergency.
- 4) The contract is primarily on behalf of the HSE and HSE funded organizations including all 49 Acute Hospitals in seven hospital groups and the non-acute sector across four HSE Regions nationwide.

The contract is also available for use by the Irish Public Sector client base comprised of Central Government Departments, Offices and Non-Commercial Agencies and Organisations that have a formal reporting and legal relationship with these departments including; Local Authorities including Town Councils, Regional Assemblies, County Enterprise Boards and Libraries; Third level institutions (Universities, Institutes of Technology); Bodies which are Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and ETB schools, as well as ETBs acting on behalf of schools, groups and clusters of schools and centres and also National primary, post-primary, special and secondary schools; The Security Sector – An Garda Síochána, the Defence Forces and the Irish Prison Service.

The contract requires that the service will reflect and Best Available Techniques criteria to ensure the highest environmental and health and safety standards in support of the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2014-2020. Emphasis will be placed on the Waste Management Hierarchy and energy recovery of treated Hazardous Healthcare Risk Waste.

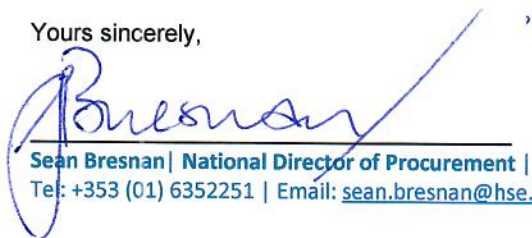
The contractor is responsible for seeking and obtaining from the relevant authorities any information which may be required for the necessary hazardous permit/licence requirements and will be required to adapt to changing circumstances arising from new practices and evolving policies and statutory legislation and amendments during the period of the contract(s).

The contractor is required to work to the relevant definitions and categories of healthcare waste in accordance with Annex III of the EU Waste Framework Directive, The EC (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 S.I. No 126/2011 and the Waste Management Act 1996 as Amended and European Waste Catalogue (EWC) and Hazardous Waste List 2015, as amended from time to time. The contract will ensure compliance with S.I. No. 542/2009 - European Communities (Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009.

The list of healthcare wastes includes wastes from human health care and/or related research; wastes from natal care, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease in humans; sharps; body parts, organs including blood UN Approved bags and blood preserves; wastes whose collection and recovery is subject to special requirements in order to prevent infection; chemicals consisting of or containing dangerous substances; cytotoxic and cytostatic medicines; medicines other than those mentioned previously; amalgam waste from dental care.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2251 or via [ohop@hse.ie](mailto:ohop@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,



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