



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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2nd December 2020

Deputy Sorca Clarke,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sorca.clarke@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Clarke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 37487/20

To ask the Minister for Health the cost to the HSE per hour to section 39 agencies for personal assistants.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives. PA Services are provided either through Private Providers or through a range of voluntary service providers.

Rates of Pay

The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers. In this regard, the bulk of the PA Service is delivered by Private Providers or Voluntary Service Providers funded under Section 39 of the Health Act. The rates these Providers pay their staff relate to historical/legacy pay rates that the Providers have agreed with their staff. It is not within the gift of the HSE to determine these pay rates. The cost to the HSE per hour for Personal Assistants would form part of the overall funding allocated to a Service Provider, which is negotiated at local CHO level through the Governance Framework that applies to all funded agencies.

The HSE has established a Governance Framework to cover funding relationships with all Non Statutory Agencies. The Governance Framework has 2 components:

Part 1: A Service Arrangement that is signed every 3 years by both parties and sets out the legal requirements that the agency must comply with to receive funding for the provision of services.

Part 2: A Set of 10 Schedules which must be completed and signed by the Agency and the HSE which sets out the detail of the service and the exact funding that the HSE is providing for the delivery of this service. This Set of Schedules also identifies the quality standards and best practice guidelines to be adhered to in the provision all services, along with process for managing complaints in relation to service provision.

The service arrangement between the HSE and a provider is an important contractual document that sets out the quantum of service delivery and activity which is funded by the state and underpinned by governance and quality policy frameworks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cathal J. Morgan', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**