



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

4 November 2020

Deputy Johnny Mythen, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Mythen,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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: 32131/20

To ask the Minister for Health the cost for travel allowance for HSE staff providing homecare assistance; the travel fee charged by agencies providing homecare assistance; the top mileage allowed per homecare assistance staff member; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community. The HSE, working within its available resources, has sought to maintain and when possible to expand the range and volume of services available to support people to remain in their own homes, to prevent early admission to long term residential care and to support people to return to their homes following an acute hospital admission.

Home Support services for older people, funded by the HSE, are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The HSE directly employs home support staff in all areas outside of the Dublin/Wicklow area (CHO 6, CHO 9 and parts of CHO 7) and County Clare, where traditionally there is no directly employed HSE staff. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's assessed needs.

Directly employed Health Care Support Assistants who are required to travel in the delivery of home support services are entitled to be paid the relevant travel and subsistence rates as agreed with the Department of Health and in accordance with HSE's National Financial Regulations (NFR 05 Travel & Subsistence). Mileage claimed is dependent on location/base and spread of clients and on geographical area and staff are assigned in such a way as to minimise the amount the travel in so far as possible.

In relation to the use of private providers, the HSE has committed to the direct employment of home support staff to maximum effect for those with the appropriate skill set. However, it should be noted that private providers are part of the landscape for home support provision and will continue to be used, not least for the choice of care which they allow to the user of the service.

In that regard, following a tender process in 2018, each of the nine Community Health Organisations across the country have a number of Approved Providers available to provide a Home Support service to clients locally where the HSE is not in a position to provide the service directly. External providers operate subject to tender arrangements with the HSE and are paid in accordance with agreed tender rates.



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

The terms and conditions of Home Support Workers employed by the Approved Providers are a matter for each employer. The criteria for payment of travel costs associated with home support services through external provision is detailed in the Tender 2018 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) available at the following web-link:-

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/service-arrangement-documents.html>

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,
Services for Older People.