



Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22/09/2020

REPDR 20/21201

Question

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the private ambulance tender for the HSE framework; if there will be a new tendering process to allow private ambulances service providers currently outside of the HSE framework to apply; if so, when the tendering process will take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Rose Conway-Walsh

Response

Deputy Conway-Walsh,

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.

The services to which the procurement issue relates are for private ambulances operated in accordance with Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council's (PHECC) Standards. The required services are delivered to a specific geographic area or attached to a specific hospital facility. The services are non-emergency inter hospital transfers and relate to transfer of public patients only.

A competition to establish a new contracting model for the provision of private ambulance services commenced in Nov 2019 with the publication of a contract notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (Nov 2019).

This competition was identified as a Priority 1 project for 2020.

Due to the pandemic, all scheduled procurement activity including the scheduled competition for the provision of Private Ambulance Services was paused.

We are currently assessing the impact of COVID-19 on this type of service. It is likely that a further call for competition will take place as our experience of COVID-19 is indicating that services of this nature are not suitable to a closed contracting model.

We anticipate that we will deploy a dynamic purchasing system that will be open to all suppliers of this type of service to enter or leave the contracting model at any stage. We believe that this approach is far more suitable.

We anticipate that our analysis will be completed in the next 2 weeks. If a revised call for competition is necessary, we expect that competition to commence during October of 2020.

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.

Yours sincerely,

[sent by email and accordingly bears no signature]

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