



20th April, 2021

Deputy Bríd Smith, TD
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 18866/21

Greystones Home Help Service CLG (GHHS)

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE or his Department have been notified of the plan by service (details supplied) to cease operations; and his views on plans by the HSE to continue with existing levels of home help hours for residents affected.

Dear Deputy Smith

In response to your Parliamentary Question to the Minister for Health; HSE Community Healthcare East is in receipt of the formal decision of the Board of Directors of Greystones Home Help Service CLG (GHHS) to cease its operations as service provider of home support services imminently. The HSE was aware that this voluntary agency had concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the agency. Despite a number of meetings in this regard, HSE Community Healthcare East was unable to convince the current GHSS Board of Directors to continue the operation of this agency. Albeit the HSE are disappointed with this outcome, we respect the decision of the Board of Directors and acknowledge our appreciation for the invaluable work that successive Directors of GHSS have been performing on a totally voluntary basis since the formation of GHSS in the 1970's.

The HSE is acutely conscious that the primary concerns of the Board of Directors was the sustainability of services for the benefit of their existing clients as well as the continued support and employment opportunities to their existing staff given the highly valued service that they provide.

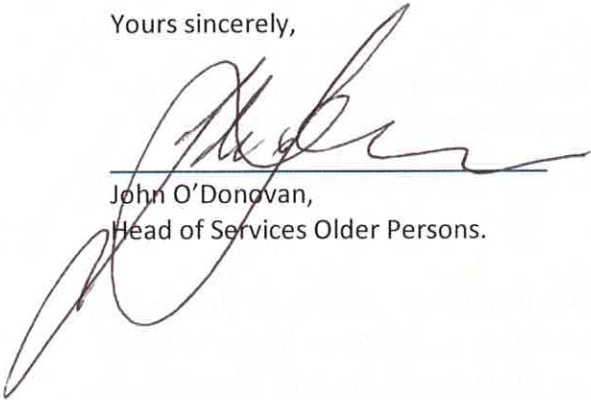
The HSE is aware that a number of complex considerations and options had been explored by the Board of GHHS towards ensuring the continuation of services to all clients. The HSE is advised that following detailed analysis and evaluation of said options, the Board of GHSS has decided to enter into an agreement with Home Instead Senior Care to ensure the continuation of all services to existing clients while guaranteeing the option of continued employment of all current staff on their existing terms and conditions. The Board of Directors of GHSS have assured the HSE that this agreement will re-enforce care arrangements with an already Approved Provider – under HSE Tender 2018 (as extended) thereby ensuring continuity of care for all current clients.

All clients retain the right to choose to transfer to any other approved provided on the CHO 6 Approved Provider List as is their right at any time under the terms of the Standard Operating Procedures agreed within the framework of the HSE's 2018 Home Support Tender.

HSE Community Healthcare East are aware that discussions with employees continue with the Board and Management of GHHS and the Senior Management Team of Home Instead to ensure that transition arrangements are managed appropriately so as to avoid service disruption to Clients.

Our HSE's Wicklow Home Support Office remains available to engage with Clients to answer any queries/concerns that they may have. Our primary concern is that the needs of the vulnerable clients currently in the care of GHHS will continue to be serviced by an experienced reputable Provider who is committed to working with clients to deliver the best possible service in line with the standards set out in the 2018 Home Support tender programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Donovan', written over a horizontal line.

John O'Donovan,
Head of Services Older Persons.