



Deputy Seán Crowe,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

08/03/2021

RE PQ 10035/21

Question

To ask the Minister for Health if a company (MCD Productions) will be involved in the vaccination roll-out process; if so, if the contract went through the public tendering programme; and the specific responsibilities and roles the company will have. -Seán Crowe

Response

Deputy Crowe,

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.

It is intended that the company MCD Productions will be involved in the vaccination roll out process.

The nature of the services it is proposed to be provided by MCD Productions relates to the provision of event management type services to support the operation of mass vaccination clinics on an as required basis.

The provision of such services to the vaccination programme will not be limited to MCD Productions only. HSE will where possible leverage existing contractual arrangements to support the vaccination roll out process. In addition, HSE will where appropriate, seek quotations for services from local suppliers.

The proposed contract with MCD Productions has not been the subject of a public tendering programme.

In the context of the immediate need to support the vaccination programme HSE have relied on Article 32 2(c) of Procurement Directive 2014/24/EU which justifies the use of a negotiated procedure without prior publication.

The right to award a contract by negotiated procedure without publication of a tender notice was subsequently confirmed on 01 April 2020 when the EU Commission published Guidance on Public Procurement during the Covid 19 Crisis (2020/c108/01). This Guidance states that: "Concretely, the negotiated procedure without publication allows public buyers to acquire supplies and services within the shortest possible timeframe. Under this procedure, as set out in Art. 32 of Directive 2014/24/EU (the 'Directive') (2), public buyers may negotiate directly with potential contractor(s) and there are no publication requirements, no time limits, no minimum number of candidates to be consulted, or other procedural requirements. No procedural steps are regulated at EU level. In practice, this means that authorities can act as quickly as is technically/physically feasible – and the procedure may constitute a de facto direct award only subject to physical/technical constraints related to the actual availability and speed of delivery".

The Guidance on Public Procurement during the Covid 19 Crisis (2020/c108/01) provided by the EU Commission continues in force and to be available to contracting authorities in relation to procurement of goods and services associated with the Covid-19 response.

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 2688 or via ohop@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,



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