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**30 June 2021**

**Deputy Sorca Clarke, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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 23104/21: To ask the Minister for Health when the boarding out scheme was last reviewed by the HSE.**

Under the Boarding Out scheme, The Health Service Executive (HSE) may make arrangements for the boarding out of dependent people in a private house and for payment for all or part of the costs. The Boarding Out Scheme is not available in all areas.

The HSE must satisfy itself that the house is suitable for the person to be boarded out and that the householder is a fit person to look after the person in question. The householder must provide suitable and sufficient care, nutritious and varied food, and adequate attendance, having regard to the needs of the person. He or she must also respect the privacy of the person boarded out. Not more than six people can be boarded out in one house. Regulations set out standards as to accommodation, cleanliness, safety and other related matters.

The Boarding Out Scheme was recently reviewed on a local level by the Health Service Executive in Community Health Organisation 1. In terms of the wider, national context, it should be noted that it is not up to the HSE to review the boarding out scheme as it is a legislation based scheme. As such any review should be carried out by the Department of Health.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours Sincerely,

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

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