



11th May 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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: 22/21111

To ask the Minister for Health the details of the proposed lots for the upcoming homecare tender which will be based on volume as opposed to community healthcare organisations; when providers can expect to receive the details of these lots; the reason for this change; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

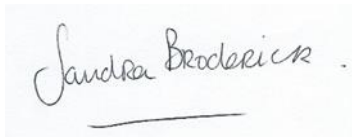
Home Support Services play an important role in providing personal care to people in their own homes and support to carers. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's assessed needs.

Home Support services are provided by both directly employed Healthcare Support Assistants (HCSAs) and Approved Providers with formal tendered arrangements with the HSE. Approved Providers with formal tender arrangements with the HSE; under the current Tender Framework, are contractually required to comply with 23 Service Specifications. These specifications include (but not limited to) requirements in relation to governance, person-centred care, complaints management, workforce etc. Each provider must have the relevant policies in place pertaining to each Service Specification and be available for inspection at all times by the HSE. Further detailed information relating to the current Tender Service Specifications for Approved Providers can be found here; <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/service-specifications-home-support-services-2018.pdf>

The current Home Support Tender arrangements are due to expire on 31 December 2022. The HSE is currently considering and developing a suitable tender strategy to meet service requirements. At this time that strategy has not been finalised. Service standards and value for money will be addressed in the tender, as they have been in previous tenders.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Broderick". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. Below the signature is a thin, horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People