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Health Service Executive
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Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Soláthair
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Deputy Róisín Shortall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

07/12/2022

RE PQ 61481/22

Question

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports of HSE contracts being awarded to a company linked to bribery (An RTÉ Investigates report about the HSE awarding new contracts to EuroSurgical which was linked to the bribery of three managers at St Vincent's Hospital and Beacon Hospital in 2015); the reason that the HSE continued to work with this company after the bribery was first exposed in 2015; the steps being taken to ensure that this is not repeated; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Response

Deputy Shortall,

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.

HSE is governed by EU Public Procurement Law when considering excluding suppliers. Mandatory exclusion grounds are only applicable where a supplier has been convicted of relevant offences. Discretionary exclusion is allowed where HSE can demonstrate, by appropriate means that a supplier is guilty of grave professional misconduct, which renders its integrity questionable. No such convictions or findings of grave professional misconduct were in place at the time HSE did business with EuroSurgical.

Regarding Gemini Surgical Innovations Limited it is not permissible under law to link two separate private limited companies (notwithstanding that there was an overlap of directors/employees).

The increased expenditure with Gemini Surgical Innovations Limited in 2020 and 2021 was entirely Covid related, and necessary in the context of worldwide shortages in the sourcing of PPE.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact brian.long1@hse.ie tel: 087 2870621.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Long', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Brian Long | Assistant National Director Procurement | National Finance Division | HSE
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