



28th June 2022

Deputy Patricia Ryan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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: 22/21876

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to reform the tendering model for homecare when the current model expires at the end of 2022; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

NSP 2022 provides for the following: -

- Rollover of the 2021 target levels of service into 2022, inclusive of the additional 5m hours funded in 2021 to 23.67m hours nationally
- 360,000 hours provided via Intensive Home Care Packages
- 230,000 hours associated with the roll-out of the pilot Statutory Home Support Scheme, which commenced in late 2021

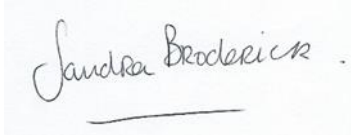
Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

A joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE for the design, development and regulation of the new statutory home support scheme is currently underway with the Department of Health leading out on a detailed process to determine what type of scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people. It is envisaged that the statutory Home Support Scheme will not be implemented until into 2023 and there is a requirement to ensure the availability of providers and continued service provision beyond the end date of the current tender arrangements, due to expire 31 December 2022.

The HSE is now at the strategy development stage for the next iteration of the tender process and have engaged a third party Grant Thornton to reach out to a broad spectrum of providers on our behalf to help to inform the procurement strategy for the contracts that will be in place for 2023. Service standards and value for money will be addressed in the tender, as they have been in previous tenders. It is not envisaged that the number of suppliers required will be reduced to any great extent, given the significant volume of hours required to meet service needs.

It is anticipated that the Invitation to Tender will issue on the e-tenders website towards end of Q3 for implementation on 01 January 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Broderick". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People