



Oifig an Stiúrtóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
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8th June 2022

Deputy Barry Cowen
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cowen,

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: 22/26637

To ask the Minister for Health when the National Homecare Office in Tullamore will open; 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.

A joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE, for the design and development of the new statutory home support scheme and regulation is underway with the Department of Health leading out on the detailed process to determine what type of home care scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people.

Plans are progressing to establish a New National Older Persons Services Office that will encompass the National Home Support Office to be located in Tullamore. HSE Estates have appointed a project manager to oversee this programme of works and it is anticipated that the office will be established in Q3 2022. Every effort is being made to expedite same in order to achieve this timeframe. The HR Social Care team are currently undertaking a recruitment process for a number of key posts to support and enable the establishment of the National Home Support Office.

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,

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People