



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
Community Operations
Services for Older People

www.hse.ie
@hselive
t 087 345 5593
e olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

20th September 2022

Deputy Colm Burke TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 44246/22

To ask the Minister for Health if the new HSE tender for homecare, which will replace the current home support tender when it expires at the end of 2022, will include additional payments to allow homecare staff employed by the voluntary and private sector to be paid travel and mileage costs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community. The HSE, working within its available resources, has sought to maintain and when possible expand the range and volume of services available to support people to remain in their own homes, to prevent early admission to long term residential care and to support people to return to their homes following an acute hospital admission. The 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 care needs by the HSE and having regard to available resources and competing demands for the service from those people with assessed needs.

Home Support Services for older people are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's assessed needs.

In relation to the use of private providers, the HSE has committed to the direct employment of home support staff to maximum effect for those with the appropriate skill set. However, private providers are part of the landscape for home support provision and will continue to be used, not least for the choice of care which they allow to the user of the service. External providers operate subject to tender arrangements with the HSE and are paid in accordance with agreed tender rates.

The terms and conditions of Home Support Workers employed by the Approved Providers are a matter for each employer. The criteria for payment of travel costs associated with home support services through external provision is detailed in the Tender 2018 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) available at the following web-link:-

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/service-arrangement-documents.html>

The current 2018 Tender Framework for the provision of home support services is due to expire on 31 December 2022 and HSE published an Invitation to Participate on 01 September 2022 on behalf of Services for Older People to establish either an Authorisation Scheme with an initial term of 24 months to secure suitable service providers to meet the HSE's requirements for home support services or to select tenderers to tender for such services for a similar or shorter period. The outcome of this process will determine the rates payable to those Providers who are selected to provide services to HSE funded home support clients.



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Yours sincerely,

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People