

Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísi do Dhaoine Aosta
Teileafón: 087 345 5593
Ríomhphost: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie



Office of the Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 087 345 5593
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

04 May 2023

**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: 23/17851

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the new homecare tender to replace the existing tender which is due to expire on 30 April 2023; when he expects this new tender to be agreed; if this new tender will include recommendations for the Report of the Strategic Workforce Advisory Group on Home Carers and Nursing Home Health Care Assistants, in particular recommendation six which states that homecare workers should, at a minimum, receive the national living wage; 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.

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.

Current Tender arrangements (2018) have been extended for a final period up to the end of June 2023. To ensure continuity of indirect service provision the HSE published Stage One of its Invitation to Participate on eTenders (<https://www.etenders.gov.ie/>) on the 1st of September 2022 with a submission deadline of 26th of September. Stage One of the process has been completed with the outcome communicated to the relevant parties. Significant progress has been made at Stage Two with further engagements with DoH and Provider Representative Bodies planned to progress the establishment of an Authorisation Scheme. The specifics of the Authorisation Scheme will become available once the detail is finalised and the process is completed.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kathleen Jordan
Head of Service – Home Support
Services for Older People
Community Operations