

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

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09 August 2023

Deputy Roisin 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 Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ ref 36499/23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the establishment of the national home support office; the number of positions funding has been provided for; the number of roles which remain vacant, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

With regard to the physical National Home Support Office, a building to lease has been sourced, located in Tullamore Co. Offaly. However, the building's ownership changed hands and this has led to a delay in progressing completion of the works and fit-out required to take possession.

Plans have been developed for the National Home Support Office and the HSE is now progressing under guidance of the HSE Midlands Property Department and a designated Project Manager and legal representatives have been assigned to the project. Efforts specifically underway include increasing the BER rating to a minimum A3 along with efforts to increase compliance standards within the dedicated car parking structure. It is anticipated that the building will be ready for occupation before year-end 2023.

Staffing currently in place include a Head of Service, 1.0WTE each Grade VII, Grade VI and Grade V with 2 further staff to commence in post by end- August 2023. The remaining posts are in progress.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

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

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