



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
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Services for Older People

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16 June 2023

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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: 23/27690

To ask the Minister for Health the cost of delivering a living wage for homecare workers; and the estimated cost of providing for mileage expenses.

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.

In 2022 the HSE commenced a process of engagement with Home Support Providers, via their representative bodies NCCN and HCCI, in respect of 2023 Tender arrangements. The Invitation to Tender was published on eTenders on 1st of September 2022. The HSE utilised a two-stage process in order to engage the Market. This approach facilitates the option of an Authorisation Scheme model and is open-ended; therefore, new entrants to the market may apply to join at any stage, periodically. Contracts awarded to Scheme members will be for a defined period, initially for twelve-month period with an option to extend for a further twelve months, which may be subject to a rate review at the HSE's discretion.

The outcome of Stage 1 was notified to all applicants in January 2023. Engagement has been ongoing with both the provider representative bodies and with the Department of Health in relation to finalising the current Home Support Tender. The Department of Health has approved the progression to an Authorisation Scheme and approval is subject to the Authorisation Scheme including provision for sectoral reform including travel time, addressing the living wage and reforming legacy rates, as recommended by the Strategic Workforce Advisory Group.

Stage 2 of the Process was published to eTenders on 25th of May 2023 with a submission deadline of the 15th of June, 2023. It is anticipated that the Authorisation Scheme will commence in mid-August 2023 subject to completion of the formal internal HSE approval process through EMT to HSE Board.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

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