Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta Oibríochtaí Pobail

Seirbhisi do Dhaoine Aosta Teileafón: 087 345 5593

Riomhphost: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie



Office of the Assistant National Director **Community Operations**

Services for Older People Tel: 087 345 5593

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05 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: 23/18119

To ask the Minister for Health if the new homecare tender will be in place by 1 May 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 23/21034

To ask the Minister for Health the reasons for the further delay to the HSE Home Support Tender 2023; the steps he is taking to ensure that the tender is not delayed any further; 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.

Engagement has been ongoing in relation to finalising the current Home support tender. In parallel the HSE has also had high level discussions with the Department of Health and have sought a further extension of the current arrangements pending further engagement. The current contracts which were due to expire on 30th April 2023 are now extended to Friday 30th June, 2023, in order to facilitate the conclusion of these high level discussions and the current tender process.

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Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

Head of Service – Home Support

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