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Deputy Róisín Shortall T.D.,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

2nd October 2024

Dear Deputy Shortall,

PQ Number: 36437/24

To ask the Minister for Health the policy for nursing homes support offices in respect of accepting applications for the nursing homes support scheme, also known as fair deal (details supplied); if local offices should accept soft copy applications; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

The HSE currently does not accept soft copy Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS) application forms. It is possible to download the NHSS application form from the HSE website. All application forms should be forwarded to the applicant's local Nursing Homes Support Office, details of which are provided within the application form.

The HSE is currently undertaking a procurement process to secure an updated information system to replace the current NHSS IT system. The facility to provide for online applications is a key feature of the business requirement for this proposed information system.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Ultan Hynes
Head of Service – Nursing Homes Support Scheme