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26th March 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Email: Alan.kelly@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Alan Kelly

RE: PQ11086/25 To ask the Minister for Health if all persons that are recruited to work in her Department and all the related agencies of her Department are fully vetted before they are employed by her Department and or said agencies. -Alan Kelly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, submitted by you to the Minister for Health. This matter has been referred to me for response on behalf of the HSE.

The National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012-2016, provides a statutory basis for vetting of persons carrying out 'relevant work with children or vulnerable persons' as defined in Schedule 1 of the act. Not all staff in the HSE fall within the scope defined within the legislation and the National Vetting Bureau have advised the HSE that vetting applications should only be submitted in respect of persons who will be engaged in relevant work or activities as defined by the act.

All employees in positions that constitute 'relevant work' must undergo vetting as a condition of their employment. Garda Vetting is an integral part of the recruitment and selection process for positions which constitute 'relevant work'. The onus is on local service management to determine if the nature of the work or activities for a position comes within the scope of the legislation and ensure that the vetting disclosure has been received and assessed prior to making an offer of engagement.

It is the position of the HSE that no staff member engaged in relevant work, can be at work without full and proper vetting and that controls are in place locally to ensure same.

The oversight of agency staff is contractually bounded with governance of same within the remit of local service management also

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Eileen Winnington
Assistant National Director of HR