



Denise Tighe, General Manager, National Services for Older People

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**Deputy Micheal Healy Rae TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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 54450/23: To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide further funding to the groups that organise meals on wheels which is a valuable service to our elderly in view of the rising costs of fuel, staffing and the increase of five sick days a year for employees; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

As part of 2024 budget an additional €1m was allocated to HSE for Meals on Wheels services to address inflationary costs in services and provide additional meals. This allocation should issue to services in quarter 1 2024, the breakdown of this allocation will be reviewed in advance of issuing to services. Additional funding of €1.75m was allocated to Meals on Wheels services in 2023, this funding was issued to providers in the second half of 2023.

Kind Regards,

**Denise Tighe
General Manager
National Services for Older People**