



Office of the National Director of Procurement  
Health Service Executive  
Dr. Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8  
D08 W2A8

Oifig an Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Soláthair  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Atha Clíath 8  
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Deputy Niamh Smyth,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

08/05/2024

## RE PQ 55341/23

### Question

To ask the Minister for Health if it is his Department's rule that on a long-term basis private ambulance companies would own or have leased ambulances prior to applying for the contract for the provision of ambulance services for hospitals (Cavan Monaghan hospital ran a tender for the provision of ambulance services based on price and quality. The contract was awarded to Festimed, an event company which deals with festival event emergencies. As part of the tender the company was required to have four ambulances that are less than 5 years old. The tender process were informed that Festimed did not have these. We are informed that on the first day of the contract two weeks ago they have been using three other private ambulance companies and have been trying to buy UK ambulances. Serious questions also arise as to whether staff have been Garda vetted.). -Niamh Smyth

### Response

Deputy Smyth,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Tenderers are required to be registered with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council for the provision of Ambulance services. Tenderers would therefore own or have leased ambulances and have provided Ambulance services prior to applying for a contract.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the National Director of Procurement on (01) 635 2688 or via [john.swords@hse.ie](mailto:john.swords@hse.ie)

Yours sincerely,

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