



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 55342/23

### Question

To ask the Minister for Health when it comes to tenders for ambulance services for hospitals if it is his Department's rule that ambulance companies cannot on winning the contract attempt to secure ambulance services (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.

No. A successful Tenderer is permitted to augment their existing capacity by adding vehicles and or staff on award of contract. However, any additional vehicles or staff are required to comply with the minimum standards set out in the Tender documents. A Tenderer can add or secure additional Ambulances and Staff over the life of a Contract to ensure that it has sufficient resources to fulfil a Clients Organisation, Hospital, or Hospital Group requirements.

Tenderers may also acquire additional services from another organisation by way of partnership or sub-contract on winning a contract for the Provision of Ambulance services. A successful Tenderer is explicitly required to sub-contract services in the event that they do not have sufficient internal resources to meet the requirements of the Client Organisation, Hospital, or Hospital Group at any time during the delivery of 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,

**John Swords** | National Director of Procurement | HSE | Dr. Steevens' Hospital | Dublin 8 | D08 W2A8 |  
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