



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
D08 W2A8

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Deputy Niamh Smyth,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

08/05/2024

RE PQ 55351/23

Question

To ask the Minister for Health if the scenario in which a company wins a contract for the provision of ambulance services which does not have its own ambulances, which only purchases or seeks ambulances after the award of the contract, whose staff are not Garda vetted, that does not have staff to operate the service tendered for at the point of the award, still does not have the ambulances required to operate the services, and is now contracting out the services required to other ambulance companies other than the company that was successful in winning the tender poses a significant possibility of a civil suit by patients should the company fail to meet patient safety and operational criteria (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.

Tenderer's staff are required to be Garda Vetted in advance of delivering services.

A Tenderer is permitted 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.

Any sub-contractor engaged by the Tenderers are required to be registered with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council for the provision of Ambulance services and to have their staff Garda vetted.

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

Yours sincerely,



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