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13th September 2024

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 34361/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of an application by an organisation (details supplied) for section 39 funding from the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McDonald

The Health Service Executive 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. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

It is noted that SOSAD applied to Louth Meath Mental Health Services (LMMHS) for Section 39 Funding in August 2023, and this was acknowledged in August 2023.

Louth Meath Mental Health Services had outlined its plan to conduct a multi-step review process as per HSE correspondence issued to Minister Butler in July 2024, and this plan no longer has any standing.

I wish to confirm that the previously advised review process plan is cancelled with immediate effect. Control Environment and Spend Limits have been set in line with HSE Memos issued by the HSE Chief Executive Officer dated 16th July 2024 and 7th August 2024.

The HSE Chief Executive Officer has advised that the HSE budget planning for 2025 will be a 2-year agreement with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Public Expenditure (DPER) and this will be largely built upon the requirement to operate sustainably within spending limits.

As part of HSE Control Environment, there is to be a more standardised and controlled approach to funding/commissioning of services for the HSE. In 2025, there is a plan to develop a clear and streamlined process in relation to the inputs to be improved, on what basis, the source of the funding, the activities to be undertaken and the results being output/ outcomes that are expected.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Martina Lennon,
General Manager, Mental Health Services, Louth Meath
Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO)