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Deputy Róisín Shortall T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ Number: 36361/24**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

**To ask the Minister for Health if nursing homes support offices are no longer accepting soft copy applications for the nursing homes support scheme, also known as fair deal; if so, when this instruction was issued; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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.

The HSE currently does not accept soft copy Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS) application forms. It is possible to download the NHSS application form from the HSE website. All application forms should be forwarded to the applicant's local Nursing Homes Support Office, details of which are provided within the application form. A number of online applications were accepted as a Covid-19 response measure during 2020.

The HSE is currently undertaking a procurement process to secure an updated information system to replace the current NHSS IT system. The facility to provide for online applications is a key feature of the business requirement for this proposed information system.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

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**Ultan Hynes**  
**Head of Service – Nursing Homes Support Scheme**