

Office of the Asst National Director Services for Older People, National Office, Access & Integration

Unit 4, Central Business Park Tullamore, Co Offaly, R35 FH59 www.hse.ie @hselive

- t 087 345 5593
- e OlderPeople.Operations@hse.ie

5th February 2025

Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor Dáil Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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.

PQ 1496/25

To ask the Minister for Health if he will confirm the value of contracts awarded to companies for the provision of home care services in each of the past three years and the names of the successful companies; if robust due diligence is carried on each company; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Jennifer Murnane O'Connor

Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community. The HSE, working within its available resources, has sought to maintain and when possible, expand the range and volume of services available to support people to remain in their own homes, to prevent early admission to long term residential care and to support people to return to their homes following an acute hospital admission.

Home Support services for Older People are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private Providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's assessed needs.

In 2023, the HSE completed a tendering process and established a Home Support Authorisation Scheme for the provision of home support services, commencing in August 2023. The Authorisation Scheme model is open-ended therefore new entrants to the market may apply to join periodically. Contracts awarded to Scheme members are for a defined period, initially for twelve-month period with an option to extend. Following the successful completion of two Rounds of the Scheme, 102 individual companies have been appointed to the Authorisation Scheme across the 9 CHOs/health regions.

All applicants/home support providers underwent a procurement process in advance of being successfully appointed to the Authorisation Scheme. Oversight of service delivery is provided through Service Monitoring and Audit at CHO/Regional level. In addition, all Approved Providers appointed to the scheme must adhere to the Home Support Authorisation Scheme Service Specifications.

The terms and conditions of the Scheme are detailed in the Home Support Authorisation Scheme <u>Standard Operating Procedures</u>. For your information, the Home Support <u>Approved Provider Listings</u> are available to view on the HSE website.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

tathleen jordon

Head of Service

Services for Older People, Access and Integration