

## SAGAA Review Online Briefing on 20 November 2024

### Questions and Answers

#	Question	Answer
1	Will this presentation be shared after the meeting?	Yes, the presentation will be made available to all attendees and shared through the usual channels. We will set up a link to the slides and to a recording of the presentation and circulate these once available. <b>Webinar:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/vIM2hu-7nfs">https://youtu.be/vIM2hu-7nfs</a> <b>Slides:</b> <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/non-statutory-sector/service-arrangement-and-grant-aid-agreement-review/faq/sagaa-briefing-nov-2024.pdf">https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/non-statutory-sector/service-arrangement-and-grant-aid-agreement-review/faq/sagaa-briefing-nov-2024.pdf</a>
2	Will this be shared more widely with our GAA and SA partners after today?	Yes, this will be shared with GAA and SA partners.
3	Has the template changed for private providers?	Yes, the changes will impact private providers also.
4	With the recommendation of the GA ceiling being raised from €250,000 to €1million - will service providers revert from SLA to GA - if under €1million?	Agencies who participated in the GAA pilot will be offered the option of continuing with the GAA or reverting to the SA for 2025.
5	Are we using a specific HPSR for the three voluntary organisations with whom we have SLAs?	The HPSR will be mainstreamed to all agencies using an SA in 2025. A separate HPSR template has been developed for each type of Agency (S38, S39 and FP) and care group.
6	When do you hope to share new templates for 2025?	We are aiming to share the new templates as soon as available.
7	Is the new HPSR an online or paper-based process?	This signing process is paper-based. The HPSR will be available on the relevant the "Non-statutory" section of the HSE website when finalised.
8	What is the exact website address for the slides and recording, and will we receive an email link to it?	<b>Webinar:</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/vIM2hu-7nfs">https://youtu.be/vIM2hu-7nfs</a> <b>Slides:</b> <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/non-statutory-sector/service-arrangement-and-grant-aid-agreement-review/faq/sagaa-briefing-nov-2024.pdf">https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/non-statutory-sector/service-arrangement-and-grant-aid-agreement-review/faq/sagaa-briefing-nov-2024.pdf</a>
9	Will we be told which organisations are being piloted in the extended pilot for the 'Additional Column in Pilot Disability Composite Template'?	Yes, we're happy to share the organisations that are being piloted as part of the 'Additional Column in Pilot Disability Composite Template'.
10	What will happen if the deadline date of the 28th of February is not met?	Every effort should be made to ensure sign-off by the due date. It is expected that the HSE and voluntary agencies will work to ensure timely signing of SA and GAA documentation.

11	For charities who are not hospitals, will we have to fill in a HPSR?	Every agency who has an SA in 2025 will be required to complete a Part I (to cover four years) and a HPSR(s).
12	Where HSE funding is received from multiple streams (health & wellbeing, mental health, social inclusion etc.), will these be covered under 1 HPSR or multiple for 2025?	For 2025 these will be single HPSRs but the intention is that in due course they will be merged where possible.
13	Has any work been done to make the SPG System Quicker?	The operation of the SPG remains under constant review.
14	Will the 2025 grant funding be agreed/notified in December 2024 for S39 to allow for February agreement?	It is expected that funding will be notified in December.
15	If you have multiple SLAs with different regions would some, be Grant Aid Agreements and others be Service Arrangements based on the value with that specific region?	The use of GAA or SA is determined by the total funding that an Agency receives from the HSE. If the total funding is less than €250k it will require a GAA; if the total funding is greater than €250k it will require the use of an SA (Part I and HPSR).
16	Would the HSE consider issuing a briefing document specifically for the c 1800 Boards/trustees/directors, all of whom are volunteers?	The focus at this juncture is in the first instance to update relevant service managers in the HSE and relevant staff in Provider Agencies on the introduction of the HPSR. There are no plans at present to provide briefings to Board members as they would generally not be directly involved in the process to agree and settle Service Arrangements / HPSRs.
17	Is there a deadline date when Part 1 of the SA and development of simplified Part 2 of the SA is due?	The revised documentation (Part 1 and HPSR) will apply for 2025. It is intended to issue the revised templates when finalised.
18	As a very small GA Funded Meals on Wheels provider, will the funding form we complete each year change in any significant way?	It is not expected - unless notified otherwise – that the form that you complete will change.
19	With restructuring, will contracts now be with RHAs? If so, will there be only one SA/HPSR per RHA or still based around the old CHO areas?	Please link with your current HSE contact until a new Health Region contact is introduced to you.
20	Will section 39 remain the same?	It is not clear what specific issue is being raised here – but the changes outlined will apply to Section 39 organisations also.
21	As a voluntary organisation dependent on annual funding and having no assets to rely on, how can we ensure we receive funding in late December or early January for payment of wages and overheads?	This requirement should be discussed with the local relevant HSE service manager. However, in the first instance it is incumbent on entities to work to available, agreed core funding for an agreed quantum of service. Any deviation should be discussed with the funder on an ongoing basis but the HSE cannot automatically commit to expenditure beyond its resources and according to its legal constraint to work to a finite budget.
22	What does HPSR stands for?	HPSR – Healthcare Provider Specific Requirement.
23	Is the grant aid limit raised to 1million? Is this just the pilot?	The increase in the financial limit to €1 million relates to the pilot only, however, it should be clearly understood that the limit for the GA remains at 250k.

24	Following agreement of SA, when we receive funding, we do not get a remittance (or adequate detailed remittance) from some CHOs to allow us to allocate funds received accurately and in a timely manner. Can this be considered in the end-to-end process - that detailed remittances are sent with each payment?	This matter should be discussed with your local HSE service manager.
25	Will any existing SA over 250,000 now revert to a GA for 2025?	The HSPR will be mainstreamed to all agencies using an SA in 2025. However, agencies who participated in the GAA pilot will be offered the option of continuing with the GAA or reverting to the SA for 2025.
26	Will the KOSI payments be processed for S39 agencies soon as this will need to be reflected in the S39 Applications for next year?	This matter should be discussed with your local HSE service manager. We would have expected a significant proportion of these payments to be processed at this stage unless there are additional complexities.
27	Is the issue of auto enrolment being addressed?	The specific issue being raised here is not clear but submit more details to <a href="mailto:Compliance@hse.ie">Compliance@hse.ie</a> and we will examine the specific query.
28	Will there be guidance issued in relation to Sign offs by HSE staff under new REO/IHA structure?	Please link with your current CHO contact until a new Health Region contact is introduced to you. This will happen at some point in 2025 but timing remains unknown.
29	Not all of those attending are experts on finance and process - would there be a plain English guide to increase engagement and understanding?	There will be a number of briefing sessions through December and possibly January to brief all stakeholders on the new document and in particular to answer any questions. An FAQ will also be available on the HSE website.
30	Will the SAs that were previously managed at National Level especially for Part 1s be distributed out to the Regions? (only Disability Services have done this so far)	These will still be managed at a national level unless informed otherwise.
31	Will the current schedule 3 composition doc remain the same, with the exception of one additional column?	The Disability Composite Template will substantially remain as it is currently configured, however, it will be updated to align with the updated Part I and the HPSR
32	If a voluntary organisation receives funding from two different CHOs, will there be only one GAA?	With the <b>GA</b> there will be <b>one Part I</b> but there can be a number of <b>GA Parts II</b>
33	Regarding the 250k/1m numbers, can you clarify if these numbers refer to individual SAs or overall org funding across all regions?	These numbers refer to the overall funding across all HSE regions.
34	Will the new Part 1 for 2025 be valid for more than 1 year?	It is intended that the new Part 1 will be valid for a period of 4 years.
35	It has been established that this is a "contract" and therefore the partnership approach is welcomed but the key elements of the "contract" are the services to be provided. Moreover, the staffing provided needs to be the same and the funding needs to be figured out. As this	It is correct to state that this process does NOT deal with funding, however, these matters should be discussed with the local HSE service manager.

	process is not covering the elements of funding and staffing, is this going to be negotiated locally depending which REO you are with?	
36	Will an organisation with 125000 funding will come under HPSR?	If using a GAA – HPSR not required. If using an SA – HPSR is required.
37	Are the “Health Policy and systems” part of the WHO (World Health Organisation) website?	The specific issue being raised here is not clear but submit more details to <a href="mailto:Compliance@hse.ie">Compliance@hse.ie</a> and we will endeavour to have the query addressed.
38	Will electronic signature be permissible?	This currently remains a paper-based process but electronic signatures are under active consideration.
39	Will Part 1 be needed to be filled out only once every 4 years?	Yes. It is intended that the new Part 1 will cover a period of 4 years.
40	If all organisations currently on GAA under 250,000 and there is no real change, will anyone above 250,000 automatically change to the HPSR in 2025. Does the Grant aid does not fall under this?	The HSPR will be mainstreamed to all agencies using an SA in 2025. However, agencies who participated in the GAA pilot will be offered the option of continuing with the GAA or reverting to the SA for 2025.
41	To meet the February sign-off timeline, funding allocation letters need to issue as soon as possible. Most of delays arise in relation to agreeing on-going funding lines and sometimes agreed developments are put on funding schedule as once-off funding which is a concern. The schedule 10 process needs to be clarified.	We are aiming to share the new templates as early as possible. The new documentation includes provision for the contract change process.
42	In order to achieve the end Feb, sign off, can we ensure that there is a clearly defined Communication structure agreed to ensure that all SLA leads are sharing relevant information and requirements in a coordinated and consistent manner?	We are committed to do so but appreciate the service and staffing constraints in some IHA/Regional Offices.
43	With the recommendation of the GA ceiling being raised from €250,000 to €1million, will service providers revert from SLA to GA if under €1million?	The increase in the GAA ceiling was introduced on a limited pilot basis in 2024. Agencies who participated in the pilot will be offered the option of continuing with the GAA or reverting to an SA for 2025.
44	With regards to challenges, is there any discussion in regard to increasing core Section 39 budget? (CHO4 has not had an increase to the budget)	Budget issues are outside of this process. Funding issues are to be raised with your local Service Manager.
45	Will videos and information for further sessions be sent to all who have joined this session?	Yes.
46	Can you confirm that there will be one HPSR per RHO (for national organisations)?	As the Health Regions (HR) and Integrated Health Areas (IHAs) are currently being developed it may not be possible in 2025 to have one HPSR per HR. However, it should be understood that one of the objectives of the current process is to reduce administration to a minimum.

47	Is the Part 1 for 1 year only, as it used to be 2 years or even 3 years to allow for better planning for s39s?	It is intended that the new Part 1 will cover a period of 4 years.
48	Will the HPSR reflect core funding changes or will orgs still need to use the WRC processes?	This matter should be discussed with your local HSE service manager. In most instances WRC processes are instigated by staff and staff representatives. Organisations attend the WRC and in many instances the response to claims references affordability / capacity to pay. The HPSR is a completely separate process.
49	When we have a number of Agreements with different CHO's and care groups, how do we get one to take responsibility for the Part 1?	In the case of all Multi-funded Agencies, the highest funding HR is responsible for the SA Part I.
50	As a Section 39 with significant budget deficit, what do you advise as the Board will not agree to sign off with budget deficit?	Budget issues are outside of this process. Funding issues are to be raised with your local Service Manager.
51	Has the relationship changed between the HSE and section 39?	The relationship remains underpinned through Section 39 of the Health Act, 2004 and there has been no change in that regard. However, the Partnership Principles have facilitated closer working between the Representative bodies and the HSE as evidenced by this Webinar.
52	As we are still waiting confirmation of the Pay Awards for 2025, what guidance can the panel give with regards to agreeing the pay budgets for 2025 with agencies?	This matter should be discussed with your local HSE service manager.
53	If the threshold for GAA is being raised to €1m, does this mean €1m nationwide, per agency, or per region?	It should be clearly understood that the threshold for the GAA is NOT being raised. The increase in the GA ceiling was introduced on a limited pilot basis in 2024. It is not being mainstreamed in 2025. Agencies who participated in the pilot will be offered the option of continuing with a GA or reverting to an SA for 2025.
54	Can you confirm if orgs still need to apply for pay increases through the WRC process or will the HPSR reflect this now?	This matter should be discussed with your local HSE service manager. As stated above WRC does not decide funding levels generally, the exception is nationally agreed pay awards.
55	For Organisations that are on SA, will they be moving to GAA in 2025?	The increase in the GAA ceiling was introduced on a limited pilot basis in 2024. It is not being mainstreamed in 2025. Agencies who participated in the pilot will be offered the option of continuing with a GAA or reverting to an SA for 2025.
56	Is it one standard HPSR form, but submitted to individual CHOs?	It should be understood that the CHOs as entities have been replaced by HRs and IHAs. In terms of the completion of the HPSR, this should be discussed with your local HSE contact.
57	Is there any advice on where to go in case any of this is out of scope?	This matter should be discussed with your local HSE service manager.
58	Will smaller individual organisations be afforded a chance to be part of further pilots?	The selection of Agencies for "pilots" is generally discussed in the first instance with the Agencies' Representative bodies before any decisions are taken.

59	As an organisation with multiple SAs across numerous CHOs - can we submit just one Part 1 document?	The policy is that there will be only one SA Part 1.
60	Will HPSR be required if funded below 250k?	If the agency uses a GA then there will be no requirement for a HPSR. If an SA is in place a HPSR will be required.
61	Are piloted agencies receiving over €250k staying on GAA or moving to HPSR document?	Agencies who participated in the GAA pilot in 2024 will be offered the option of continuing with a GAA or reverting to an SA for 2025.
62	What are the timelines for the completion of the Part 1? Will it be renewed annually?	The requirement is to have the Part I completed by 28 February in Community-based Agencies and 31 March for hospitals which will cover a four year period.
63	In the case where one has some GAAs and some SAs, is 250k an overall limit for the organisation?	Where an Agency's total funding from the HSE is >€250k, the requirement is to complete an SA Part I and HPSR(s).
64	Will we get a bullet point document that just outlines the changes for 2025 and what is required? When will the new documentation for sending out be ready?	We will send out the presentation summarising the changes. We will also circulate a Frequently Asked Questions document and there will be weekly sessions on the HPSR.
65	Does Part 1 need to be signed before the HPSR is signed?	In principle the Part I should be signed first, however, ideally there should be concurrent activity to ensure that both the Part I and HPSR(s) are signed by the 28 <sup>th</sup> of February / 31 <sup>st</sup> March as required. It should be understood that a formal Service Arrangement is not properly executed until both the Part I and HPSR(s) are executed.
66	How will organisation know the Part 1 is signed?	A co-signed copy of the Part I should be returned by the HSE for filing by the Agency.
67	Are organisations who are currently between on 250K and 1 million and on SA being moved to GAA?	No. The increase in the GAA ceiling to €1m was introduced on a limited pilot basis in 2024. It is not being mainstreamed in 2025. Agencies who participated in the pilot will be offered the option of continuing with a GAA or reverting to an SA for 2025.
68	Will the schedule 10 form and process remain the same?	The Change Control Note ( <b>CNN</b> ) formerly Schedule 10 is generated on the SPG system and this facility will remain the same.
69	Will there be a requirement to complete HPSRs for separate funding streams i.e. Mental Health and Disability funding?	As there are slight differences in the HPSRs, there will accordingly be a requirement to complete individual HPSRs for each Care Group.
70	Are piloted agencies receiving over €250k staying on GAA or moving to HPSR document?	Agencies who participated in the GAA pilot in 2024 will be offered the option of continuing with a GAA or reverting to an SA for 2025.
71	Can we receive clarification on future funding e.g. Increases in budget allocation, WRC, and Pensions?	Budget issues are outside of this process. Funding issues are to be raised with your local Service Manager.