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19<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

Deputy Stephen S. Donnelly, TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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 22984/18**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of home care packages being provided in each LHO area**

**PQ 22985/18**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for a home care package in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively**

**PQ ref 22991/18**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of home help hours provided in each LHO area in each month from January to April 2018; and the way in which this compares against target for each month**

With the approval of the Department of Health, the HSE has moved to a single funded home support service for Older People from 1st January 2018. The funding for the home help service and the home care package scheme has been combined into a single service – the Home Support Service for Older People. From January 2018, home support activity data reflects the total hours and clients across the Home Support Service, being the totality of the amalgamated former Home Help Service and the Home Care Package Scheme.

This new approach will provide significant benefits for the service users, the public and the health system. The services will be easier to understand and, through the streamlining of the application processes, there will be a requirement to make only one application and decision for home support services for older people. Service users will also be facilitated to move to changed levels of service, as their assessed needs change, without the need for an additional application process. This approach will also make activity data easier to understand.

The HSE National Service Plan 2018 provides an additional investment of over €18m for home support services which will provide a further 754,000 hours and will support 1,170 people to leave hospitals.

Overall, the 2018 National Service Plan provides for 17,094m home support hours to be delivered to 50,500 people at any time. In addition, a further 156,000 hours, relating to adverse weather funding, will be provided and Intensive Home Care Packages will be delivered to approximately 235 people at any time and will deliver approximately 360,000 hours in the full year.

I note your request is for April 2018, however, as the data for April 2018 is preliminary, the following data relates to March 2018. At the end of March, 52,236 people were in receipt of Home Support (excluding provision from Intensive Home Care Packages) (Appendix 1). The number of home support hours and target for each month from January to March, relating to the 17.094m home support hours in the 2018 National Service Plan, are set out by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) in Appendix 2 as targets for Local Health Offices are in the process of being finalised following close of first quarter 2018. The targets and activity for the additional 156,000 hours relating to the adverse weather funding will be reflected going forward. The number of new clients in receipt of Home Support at the end of March 2018 was 4,683.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow and waiting lists for services have become a feature. All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs. In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised.

At end of March, 6458 people were waiting for new or additional supports following assessment and the wait is caused by a combination of some local funding issues or availability of carers. It should be noted that the HSE is in the process of implementing a standard approach to assessment of care needs which, when fully implemented, will ensure that all assessments are undertaken on a consistent basis.

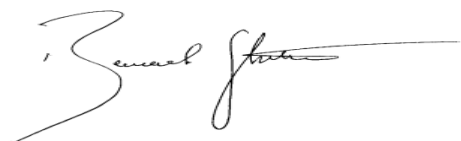
Data in the detailed format requested (i.e. length of time waiting) is not currently collated nationally. While the information is available locally from client records, it would require considerable resources to gather this information centrally. The national data available is the number waiting at the end of each month.

<b>CHO</b>	<b>Home Support</b>
CHO 1	303
CHO 2	1,482
CHO 3	495
CHO 4	218
CHO 5	581
CHO 6	333
CHO 7	724
CHO 8	926
CHO 9	1,396
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,458</b>

The numbers on the waiting list reflect a point in time and clients who are on the waiting list for funding are reviewed as funding becomes available to ensure that cases are dealt with on a priority basis within the available resources and as determined by local front line staff who know and understand the clients' needs, and who undertake regular reviews of those care needs to ensure that the services being provided remain appropriate.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to determine what type of home care scheme is best for Ireland. This process will consider the future design of both the funding and regulation systems for these crucial services. The changes being implemented by the HSE to streamline the current services will support the work being undertaken by the Department.

Yours sincerely,



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**Bernard Gloster**  
**Interim Head of Operations and Service Improvement, Services for Older People**  
**Social Care Division, HSE**

**Appendix 1: Number of people in receipt of Home Support (excluding provision from Intensive Home Care Packages)**

<b>CHO</b>	<b>LHO</b>	<b>March 2018</b>
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	1,399
	Donegal	1,706
	Sligo/ Leitrim	1,639
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>4,744</b>
CHO 2	Galway	3,051
	Mayo	1,650
	Roscommon	1,090
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>5,791</b>
CHO 3	Clare	1,183
	Limerick	1,819
	North Tipp/ East Limerick	1,347
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>4,349</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	2,598
	North Cork	1,331
	North Lee	1,749
	South Lee	1,816
	West Cork	914
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>8,408</b>
CHO 5	Carlow/ Kilkenny	1,367
	South Tipperary	1,405
	Waterford	1,290
	Wexford	1,673
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>5,735</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	1,329
	Dun Laoghaire	1,515
	Wicklow	1,446
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>4,290</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	1,679
	Dublin South West	1,681
	Dublin West	1,476
	Kildare/ West Wicklow	2,203
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>7,039</b>
CHO 8	Laois/ Offaly	1,016
	Longford/ Westmeath	1,313
	Louth	1,411
	Meath	1,362
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>5,102</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	2,582
	Dublin North Central	2,311
	Dublin North West	1,885
	<b>CHO Total</b>	<b>6,778</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>52,236</b>

**Appendix 2: Number of Home Support hours provided (excluding provision of hours from Intensive Home Care Packages)**

<b>CHO</b>	<b>January 2018 Target</b>	<b>January 2018 Outturn</b>	<b>February 2018 Target</b>	<b>February 2018 Outturn</b>	<b>March 2018 Target</b>	<b>March 2018 Outturn</b>	<b>YTD Target</b>	<b>YTD Outturn</b>
<b>CHO 1</b>	149,235	120,965	138,177	122,312	157,979	141,186	445,391	384,463
<b>CHO 2</b>	163,919	145,986	148,055	138,181	163,919	146,665	475,893	430,832
<b>CHO 3</b>	122,216	120,937	110,390	110,327	122,216	119,080	354,822	350,344
<b>CHO 4</b>	207,693	203,848	207,693	204,857	207,693	210,349	623,079	619,054
<b>CHO 5</b>	159,672	146,551	144,219	151,057	159,672	147,472	463,563	445,080
<b>CHO 6</b>	96,398	117,646	87,069	97,180	96,398	109,829	279,865	324,655
<b>CHO 7</b>	162,644	165,376	146,904	153,812	162,644	163,151	472,192	482,339
<b>CHO 8</b>	149,479	134,703	135,013	124,232	149,479	123,744	433,971	382,679
<b>CHO 9</b>	215,301	237,259	194,466	227,905	215,301	248,960	625,068	714,124