



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Community Operations,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

12th April 2019

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: margaret.murphyomahony@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Murphy O'Mahony,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 15955/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area in tabular form at 31 March 2019 or the latest date available; the number of persons on the waiting list for same in each LHO area in tabular form; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months.

PQ 15956/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area at 31 March 2019 or the latest date available, in tabular form; the number of persons on the waiting list for same in each LHO area in tabular form; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individual's needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) services and Home Support services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2019 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to provide 1.63 million hours of personal assistance to more than 2,500 people with a disability, representing an increase of 170,000 hours over the 2018 target of 1.46 million hours. The HSE will also provide 3.08 million hours of Home Support to adults and children with a disability, an increase of 150,000 hours over the 2018 target of 2.93 million hours.

Data for the first Quarter 2019 is currently being gathered and validated and will not be available until June. However, the following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2018.

Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability 2018

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2018	2018
National Total	2,553	1,636,883
CHO Area 1	252	143,808
CHO Area 2	464	303,577
CHO Area 3	431	320,161
CHO Area 4	430	123,681
CHO Area 5	431	180,729
CHO Area 6	9	21,762
CHO Area 7	47	38,409
CHO Area 8	269	185,639
CHO Area 9	220	319,118

Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability 2018

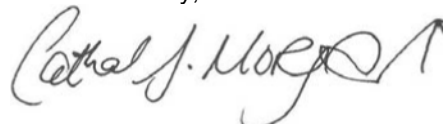
	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2018	2018
National Total	7,522	3,138,939
CHO Area 1	796	320,395
CHO Area 2	695	191,513
CHO Area 3	470	159,977
CHO Area 4	656	206,306
CHO Area 5	1,058	483,954
CHO Area 6	596	363,986
CHO Area 7	1,074	478,543
CHO Area 8	1,140	467,397
CHO Area 9	1,037	466,868

No additional funding had been provided for these services to the HSE since 2008 and as a result waiting lists are not maintained as a matter of course. Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in excess of 376 people will require Home Support services in the future and 291 people are listed as awaiting PA services. Please note that as the National Disability Databases are not mandatory it is quite possible there is an under reporting of the need.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**