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19 December 2019

Deputy James Browne, TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 51155/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons by county awaiting homecare support at 30 November 2019, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides for;

- 17.9m home support hours to be delivered to 53,000 people inclusive of 410,000 hours/550 home support packages funded under the Winter Initiative 2018/2019
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs. The number of people in receipt of home support at any time will vary having regard to the value of the individual home supports approved and as clients cease and new clients with different value home support are approved and commenced.

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of October 2019. As of this date, 14,550,922 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,404 people. Also, as of this date, there were 7,881 people waiting for funding for home support. Please see table 1 below for a breakdown by LHO, of the current waiting list. Please note that the data we hold is collated using the LHO system (Local Health Offices). The majority of the LHOs are counties whereas in more densely populated areas such as Dublin and Cork, those areas are broken down through multiple LHOs.

In Q4 2019, the Department of Health allocated additional funding of €2m to address the growing demands on the home support service, as part of the Winter Initiative 2019/2020. Part of this funding was ring-fenced to help reduce the Home Support community waiting list figures by 600 clients by end December 2019. These additional home support packages are currently being allocated across the CHOs.

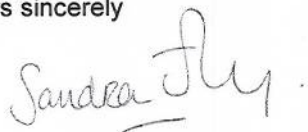
The numbers on the waiting list reflect a point in time and those people who are on the waiting list are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within

the available resource and as determined by local front line staff who know and understand the clients' needs. If clients are assessed and approved for home support and funding is not immediately available, these cases are included on the waiting list for funding.

The level of activity and associated costs in relation to home support is monitored on an on-going basis by the Chief Officers across their CHOs and with the Head of Operations Services for Older People nationally to ensure that those with the greatest needs are supported and that the overall expenditure on home support services by the HSE does not exceed the available funding.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021.

Yours sincerely



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**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Older Persons Service (Operations)**

**Table 1 – Waiting List Activity: October 2019 (Preliminary Data)**

Home Support - October 2019		
CHO	LHO	Waiting List
<b>National Total</b>		<b>7,881</b>
CHO 1	<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>
	Cavan Monaghan	303
	Donegal	286
CHO 2	<b>Total</b>	<b>732</b>
	Sligo Leitrim	160
	Galway	258
CHO 3	<b>Total</b>	<b>958</b>
	Mayo	317
	Roscommon	157
CHO 4	<b>Total</b>	<b>493</b>
	Clare	526
	Limerick	335
CHO 5	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,221</b>
	North Tipperary East Limer	97
	Kerry	43
CHO 6	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>
	North Cork	47
	North Lee	131
CHO 7	<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>
	South Lee	84
	West Cork	188
CHO 8	<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>
	Carlow Kilkenny	-
	South Tipperary	103
CHO 9	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,921</b>
	Waterford	244
	Wexford	874
CHO 10	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>
	Dublin South East	-
	Dun Laoghaire	-
CHO 11	<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>
	Wicklow	23
	Dublin South City	260
CHO 12	<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>
	Dublin South West	230
	Dublin West	195
CHO 13	<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>
	Kildare West Wicklow	254
	Laois Offaly	138
CHO 14	<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>
	Longford Westmeath	92
	Louth	161
CHO 15	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,921</b>
	Meath	454
	Dublin North	839
CHO 16	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,921</b>
	Dublin North Central	196
	Dublin North West	886