



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of General Manager - Services for Older People
Social Care Department
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone 353 56 7784319

19th December 2019

Ms. Mary Butler T.D
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 51303/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for a home support house in CHO5 at the end of October 2019; the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Butler,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

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 to 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.

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, having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs. 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 2019 South East Community Healthcare (SECH) Operational Service Plan 2019 also provides for implementation of the revised 2018 contract for HSE Home Support staff. This includes the cost of travel time from one client to another which is provided from within the existing funding allocation.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow and waiting lists have become a feature. As the numbers in the over 65-years age group are increasing, demand for new home supports increases and, as those already in receipt of services

become more dependent, demand for additional supports for existing clients also increases. 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. Please see table below with data that is routinely collated and available within SECH. Length of time on the waiting list is not maintained as clients may be removed based on their clinical need.

County	Number on Waiting List
Carlow/Kilkenny	145
South Tipperary	92
Waterford	131
Wexford	874

The level of activity and associated costs in relation to home support across the South East is monitored on an on-going basis by South East Community Healthcare Head of Social Care and the General Manager of Services for Older People 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.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara Murphy
General Manager, Services for Older People
South East Community Healthcare