



Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí
Seirbhísi do Dhaoine Scothaosta
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 061 483245
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

02nd January 2020

Deputy Noel Grealish, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Grealish,

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 52927/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for new or additional home support services by county; and the number of new applicants for additional hours by number and length of time waiting since the application was made in 2018 and to date in 2019.

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

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 resource is used to its maximum effect as part of each individual recipient's care plan.

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. There has been a significant increase in funding being made available for the provision of home support services; an increase of circa €140 million since 2014.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years' 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.

Data in the detailed format requested (i.e. the number of new applicants for additional hours by number and length of time waiting since the application was made in 2018 and to date in 2019) is not currently collated nationally. While the information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate it nationally.

Please see table 1 below for a breakdown by LHO, of the current waiting list as at the end of October 2019. 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.

€2m additional funding has been allocated under Winter Plan 2019/2020 to support 600 clients off the community Home Support Waiting list and 510 Home Support Packages funded for hospital egress. These additional HSPs are currently being allocated across the CHOs.

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



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Older Persons Services – Operations

Table 1 – Number of People Waiting for New or Additional Home Support

CHO	LHO	Oct-19		
		Total	New	Additional
National Total		7,881	5,502	2,379
CHO 1	CHO 1	749	424	325
	Cavan Monaghan	303	155	148
	Donegal	286	179	107
	Sligo Leitrim	160	90	70
CHO 2	CHO 2	732	641	91
	Galway	258	194	64
	Mayo	317	308	9
	Roscommon	157	139	18
CHO 3	CHO 3	958	643	315
	Clare	526	395	131
	Limerick	335	207	128
	North Tipperary East Limerick	97	41	56
CHO 4	CHO 4	493	282	211
	Kerry	43	33	10
	North Cork	47	31	16
	North Lee	131	66	65
	South Lee	84	42	42
	West Cork	188	110	78
CHO 5	CHO 5	1,221	858	363
	Carlow Kilkenny	-	-	-
	South Tipperary	103	88	15
	Waterford	244	116	128
	Wexford	874	654	220
CHO 6	CHO 6	23	12	11
	Dublin South East	-	-	-
	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-
	Wicklow	23	12	11
CHO 7	CHO 7	939	788	151
	Dublin South City	260	218	42
	Dublin South West	230	196	34
	Dublin West	195	164	31
	Kildare West Wicklow	254	210	44
CHO 8	CHO 8	845	523	322
	Laois Offaly	138	83	55
	Longford Westmeath	92	30	62
	Louth	161	87	74
	Meath	454	323	131
CHO 9	CHO 9	1,921	1,331	590
	Dublin North	839	515	324
	Dublin North Central	196	134	62
	Dublin North West	886	682	204