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02nd January 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 53113/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours provided in each LHO area to the end of November 2019 or the latest date available; the way in which it compares to the target in each LHO for the same time period; the number of persons on the waiting list for home support hours in each LHO area; and the number waiting zero to three, three to six, six to 12 and more than 12 months in tabular form.

PQ 53114/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons waiting for home support packages; and the waiting lists for home care packages by CHO and LHO in tabular form at the end of November 2019 or the latest date available.

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. 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.

€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.

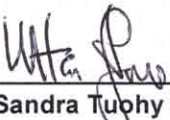
Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of October 2019. As of this date, 14,550,922 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,404 people, an increase of 295,729 hours when compared to the same period in 2018. Also, as of this date, there were 7,881 people waiting for funding for home support. Data in the detailed format requested (i.e. the number waiting zero to three, three to six, six to 12 and more than 12 months) is not currently collated nationally. While the information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate it nationally.

Please see below details of the data requested;

- **Appendix 1** details the data requested in PQ 53113/19 & 53114/19 – Home Support hours, Target & Waiting List by LHO

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



Mr Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations

Appendix 1 – Home Support Activity & Waiting List: October 2019

Home Support - October 2019				
CHO	LHO	Hours YTD	Target YTD	Waiting List
National Total		14,550,922	14,942,551	7,881
CHO 1	Total	1,398,108	1,429,963	749
	Cavan Monaghan	363,162	359,265	303
	Donegal	630,707	638,734	286
	Sligo Leitrim	404,239	431,964	160
CHO 2	Total	1,530,811	1,650,763	732
	Galway	795,090	804,120	258
	Mayo	459,719	540,541	317
	Roscommon	276,003	306,102	157
CHO 3	Total	1,268,236	1,228,493	958
	Clare	387,986	368,547	526
	Limerick	488,078	491,399	335
	North Tipperary East Lirr	392,172	368,547	97
CHO 4	Total	2,316,446	2,335,378	493
	Kerry	590,908	677,545	43
	North Cork	352,902	389,335	47
	North Lee	485,437	480,744	131
	South Lee	600,093	454,763	84
	West Cork	287,106	332,991	188
CHO 5	Total	1,640,943	1,624,106	1,221
	Carlow Kilkenny	423,631	409,118	-
	South Tipperary	331,568	328,574	103
	Waterford	310,347	405,860	244
	Wexford	575,397	480,554	874
CHO 6	Total	1,135,474	1,124,381	23
	Dublin South East	292,261	300,577	-
	Dun Laoghaire	427,197	225,433	-
	Wicklow	416,016	598,371	23
CHO 7	Total	1,641,551	1,774,028	939
	Dublin South City	309,974	277,318	260
	Dublin South West	414,802	443,047	230
	Dublin West	332,231	278,688	195
	Kildare West Wicklow	584,544	774,975	254
CHO 8	Total	1,405,322	1,432,551	845
	Laois Offaly	360,938	350,000	138
	Longford Westmeath	325,093	284,878	92
	Louth	334,272	374,419	161
	Meath	385,019	423,254	454
CHO 9	Total	2,214,033	2,342,888	1,921
	Dublin North	793,989	965,927	839
	Dublin North Central	762,042	822,065	196
	Dublin North West	658,001	554,896	886