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10th July 2019

Deputy Brendan Howlin, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Howlin,

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 30355/19

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of providing an additional 2.2 million hours of home help; the estimated cost of providing 8,000 extra homecare packages; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 30356/19

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of meeting the outstanding demand for homecare packages and home help hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides funding for Home Support Services for mainly older people to support delivery of:

- 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

It is estimated that an approximate €53.5m (full year cost) would be required to provide an additional 2.2 million home support hours. Assuming an average of 6.5hrs per client per week, the estimated full year cost of providing a home support service to an additional 8,000 clients is in the region of €65.5m. However, the actual cost of delivery will vary depending on whether the hours are delivered during core times, Monday to Friday, or outside of core hours in the late evenings or at weekends/bank holidays.

In relation to the cost of meeting the outstanding demand for home support services to year end, the estimated full year cost to address those assessed and waiting for funding for home support, based on average of 6.5hrs home support per client per week, would be in the region of €56m.

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,

Kathleen Jordan

On Behalf Of

Sandra Tuohy

Assistant National Director – Operations

Services for Older People