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10th July 2019

Deputy Jack Chambers, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Chambers,

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 30870/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home help hours applied for by week by CHO in the past four years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 30871/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home help hours granted per CHO in the past four years in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

From 1st January 2018, with the approval of the Department of Health, the funding for both the former Home Help Service and the Home Care Package Scheme has been combined into a single service now known as the Home Support Service for Older People.

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.

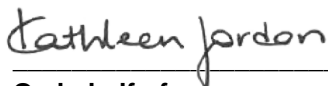
The numbers on the waiting list reflect a point in time and those people who are on the waiting list are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resource and as determined by local front line staff who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

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of May 2019. As of this date, 7,157,942 home support hours were delivered nationally to 52,382 people while 6,819 people were approved and waiting for funding to be allocated. (See Table 1 below for a breakdown of applications approved and waiting for funding, per CHO, over the past four years to date, where available).

Data in the format requested (*home help hours applied for by week*) and (*home help hours granted*) is not currently collated nationally. While this may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this information nationally. Since January 1st 2019, 7,200 new clients have commenced their home support service. (See Table 2 below for a breakdown per CHO over the past four years to date, where available).

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



On behalf of:

Sandra Tuohy

Assistant National Director

Older Persons Services – Operations

Table 1 – Home Support Waiting List: May 2019 YTD (Preliminary Data) & Prior Years

CHO	Approved and Waiting for Funding			
	31st May 2019	Dec 2018	Dec 2017 (HCP & HH)	Dec 2016 (HCP & HH)
National Total	6,819	6,120	5,388	4,381
CHO 1	742	521	187	206
CHO 2	779	968	575	455
CHO 3	523	361	380	35
CHO 4	286	152	141	589
CHO 5	768	648	524	386
CHO 6	208	177	729	618
CHO 7	1,080	1,163	300	317
CHO 8	523	462	1,086	457
CHO 9	1,910	1,668	1,466	1,318

*** Note 1:** The HCP and Homehelp Hours system was changed with effect from 1st January 2018. This change amalgamated both the HCP & Homehelp Hours system into one new service, the Home Support Service.

Table 2 – Home Support New Clients: May 2019 YTD (Preliminary Data) & Prior Years

CHO	Home Support - New Clients				
	New Home Support Clients May 2019 YTD	New Home Support Clients Dec 2018	New HCP Clients Dec 2017	New HCP Clients Dec 2016	New HCP Clients Dec 2015
CHO 1	429	1,163	668	756	620
CHO 2	703	1,760	1,461	677	667
CHO 3	650	2,201	668	573	678
CHO 4	1,136	2,625	577	447	584
CHO 5	1,058	2,523	706	716	490
CHO 6	602	1,594	1,152	906	759
CHO 7	895	1,207	1,351	829	1,053
CHO 8	1,013	2,624	1,190	950	731
CHO 9	714	2,094	2,043	1,860	2,075
National Total	7,200	17,791	9,816	7,714	7,657

**** Note 2:** Data in respect of 'New Clients' (Homehelp Hours) was not collected under that system. Data was only collected in respect of 'New HCP Clients' for years up to 2017 (inclusive).