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30th July 2019

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Barrett,

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 33549/19

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost to clear homecare package waiting lists

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 in order to clear the current home support waiting list and to address those assessed and waiting for funding for home support, based on the average of 6.5hrs home support per client per week, the full year cost would be in the region of €59m.

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:

- This is a key action under the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and will improve access to home support services.
- The system of regulation for home support will help to ensure that the public can be confident that the services provided are of a high standard.

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**