



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí 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

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

19 June 2019

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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 23538/19

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a schedule of the mean, median and modal hours per week for homecare packages for persons over 65 years of age by county; the percentage of HCPs per head of population of over 65s by county; 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 provides for the following;

- 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

Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to the end of April 2019. 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. As at 30th April 2019, there were 52,329 people in receipt of home support and April YTD 5,661,457 home support hours have been provided (preliminary data).

Please see **Appendix 1** below which outlines the total hours delivered April YTD, by LHO, the number of client in receipt of home support and % of people in receipt of home support per head of population over 65yrs. Data in the requested format (schedule of the mean, median and modal hours per week for homecare packages for persons over 65 years of age by county) is not currently collated nationally.


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.
- It will also help to improve access to the home support services that people need in an affordable and sustainable way.
- 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.
- The Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 also sets out a very significant programme of work aimed at developing and improving health and social care generally, with a significant emphasis on increased community-based supports.

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,

PP



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Activity – April 2019 YTD

CHO	LHO	Home Support Hours Delivered - April 2019 YTD*	Average Hours April YTD		No of Clients in receipt of Home Support Hours Delivered - as at end April 2019	No of People over 65rs - Census 2016	% of Population over 65 in receipt of Home Support at end April 2019
			Monthly	Weekly			
CHO 1	Total	570,672	142,668	33,289	4,135	59,787	7%
	Cavan Monaghan	157,823	39,456	9,206	1,192	18,546	6%
	Sligo Leitrim	161,492	40,373	9,420	1,612	25,434	6%
	Donegal	251,358	62,840	14,663	1,331	15,807	8%
CHO 2	Total	599,376	149,844	34,964	5,955	68,558	9%
	Roscommon	106,987	26,747	6,241	3,048	34,906	9%
	Mayo	177,107	44,277	10,331	1,850	22,909	8%
	Galway	315,283	78,821	18,392	1,057	10,743	10%
CHO 3	Total	489,474	122,369	28,553	4,466	55,935	8%
	North Tipperary East Limerick	148,916	37,229	8,687	1,141	15,934	7%
	Clare	157,446	39,362	9,184	1,893	24,729	8%
	Limerick	183,113	45,778	10,682	1,432	15,272	9%
CHO 4	Total	850,230	212,558	49,597	9,023	98,877	9%
	West Cork	105,211	26,303	6,137	2,533	25,034	10%
	North Cork	133,351	33,338	7,779	1,437	13,610	11%
	North Lee	177,183	44,296	10,336	2,067	23,943	9%
	Kerry	211,884	52,971	12,360	2,038	25,947	8%
	South Lee	222,601	55,650	12,985	948	10,343	9%
CHO 5	Total	669,546	167,387	39,057	6,142	74,302	8%
	Waterford	122,192	30,548	7,128	1,465	18,717	8%
	South Tipperary	139,775	34,944	8,154	1,368	14,428	9%
	Carlow Kilkenny	171,547	42,887	10,007	1,487	19,172	8%
	Wexford	236,032	59,008	13,769	1,822	21,985	8%
CHO 6	Total	431,946	107,987	25,197	4,084	57,237	7%
	Dublin South East	111,330	27,833	6,494	1,365	17,507	8%
	Dun Laoghaire	153,014	38,254	8,926	1,493	23,577	6%
	Wicklow	167,602	41,901	9,777	1,226	16,153	8%
CHO 7	Total	623,512	155,878	36,372	6,272	76,576	8%
	Dublin South City	118,298	29,575	6,901	1,331	16,339	8%
	Dublin West	127,694	31,924	7,449	1,456	21,268	7%
	Dublin South West	152,796	38,199	8,913	1,338	14,532	9%
	Kildare West Wicklow	224,724	56,181	13,109	2,147	24,437	9%
CHO 8	Total	554,467	138,617	32,344	5,667	74,534	8%
	Longford Westmeath	124,820	31,205	7,281	1,225	20,199	6%
	Louth	133,995	33,499	7,816	1,389	17,194	8%
	Laois Offaly	144,223	36,056	8,413	1,665	15,990	10%
	Meath	151,429	37,857	8,833	1,388	21,151	7%
CHO 9	Total	872,232	218,058	50,880	6,585	71,761	9%
	Dublin North West	252,932	63,233	14,754	2,486	32,609	8%
	Dublin North Central	301,517	75,379	17,588	2,237	19,389	12%
	Dublin North	317,783	79,446	18,537	1,862	19,763	9%
National Total		5,661,457	1,415,364	330,252	52,329	637,567	8%

* preliminary data