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**Deputy Barry Cowen, TD**  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**13 June 2019**

**Dear Deputy Cowen,**

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 23765/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the details of home help approved and awaiting allocation of same by county**

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 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

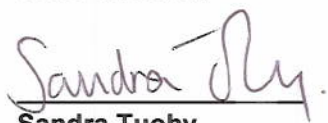
The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

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. As of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 6,310 people nationally were waiting for funding for a home support service. See Table 1 below for a breakdown by CHO.

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.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to determine what type of home care scheme is best for Ireland. This process will consider the future design of both the funding and regulation systems for home support services. The changes being implemented by the HSE to streamline the current services will support the work being undertaken by the Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

**Sandra Tuohy**

**Assistant National Director – Operations  
Services for Older People**

**Table 1 – No Waiting on Funding per CHO**

Waiting on Funding	
CHO	Apr 19
<b>National Total</b>	<b>6,310</b>
CHO 1	652
CHO 2	774
CHO 3	504
CHO 4	131
CHO 5	606
CHO 6	192
CHO 7	1,110
CHO 8	528
CHO 9	1,813