



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta  
Tel: 061 483245  
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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations  
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**Deputy Adams, TD**  
**Dáil Eireann,**  
**Leinster House,**  
**Kildare Street,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**19 June 2019**

**Dear Deputy Adams,**

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 19/24223**

To ask the Minister for Health the HSE budget for homecare packages in each of the years 2015 to 2019.

**PQ 19/24224**

To ask the Minister for Health the HSE budget for intensive homecare packages in each of the years 2015 to 2019.

**PQ19/24225**

To ask the Minister for Health the correct pathway to access an intensive homecare package; 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.

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 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 funding for home support service including funding for IHCPs for the period 2015 to 2019 is detailed in the table below. 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.



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The roll out of Intensive Home Care Packages (IHCPs) commenced in January 2015 and included IHCPs for people with dementia. Access to an Intensive Home Care Package is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available IHCP resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs. Without the Intensive Home Care Package, these people, who have complex care needs, would be admitted to long stay residential care and the number of people actively in receipt of an Intensive Home Care Package as at end April 2019 was 242.

Activity in relation to home support (including Intensive Home Care Packages) is monitored on an on-going basis by the Chief Officers across their CHO and with the Head of Operations Services for Older People nationally, to ensure that activity is maximised relative to individual clients assessed needs and within the overall available resources for home care and the HSE generally and having regard to demand throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

pp *Mary Glenn*

**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director - Operations**  
**Services for Older People**



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**Table 1: Home Support Funding 2015-2019**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Funding	€306m	€349m	€380m	€417m	€446m