



**Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations**

Services for Older People

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8<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Deputy Mary Butler, TD**  
**Dáil Eireann,**  
**Leinster House,**  
**Kildare Street,**  
**Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Butler,

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 26815/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of homecare support services outsourced to private companies in 2018, by CHO 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.

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 National Service Plan for 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 HSE provides the its home support services through directly employed home help staff, through arrangements with voluntary (not for profit) providers mainly in the Greater Dublin Area, Wicklow and Clare (where HSE direct home help service provision was never a feature) with some provision through tendered arrangements with private (for profit) providers. The type of support that is provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's needs.

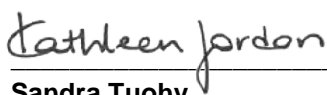
Following a tender process in 2018, each of the nine Community Health Organisations across the country have a number of Approved Providers available to provide a Home Support service to clients locally where the HSE is not in a position to provide the service directly. The new tender arrangements apply to new clients whose Home Support is approved from the 1st of September 2018. Arrangements for existing clients receiving Home Support are not affected.

Home Support may be approved following a care needs assessment by a local health professional. Clients may choose their service provider from a list of Approved Providers in their area. If the Provider chosen is unable to provide care then the HSE will use a nationally agreed process to select an alternative Provider from the list.

See table 1 below for a breakdown of the % of indirect home support hours delivered in May 2019. It should be noted that indirect provision includes home support services delivered by from both voluntary agencies and private providers.

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 these essential services.

Yours sincerely



**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Older Persons Services - Operations**

**Table 1 – % of Indirect Home Support Provision - May 2019 – preliminary data**

Home Support Activity - May 2019	
	% of Indirect Hours vs Total
<b>National Total</b>	<b>56%</b>
CHO 1	26%
CHO 2	52%
CHO 3	61%
CHO 4	19%
CHO 5	26%
CHO 6	100%
CHO 7	76%
CHO 8	53%
CHO 9	100%