



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta, Acmhainní Daonna**  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhísí Sláinte  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens'  
Baile Átha Cliath 8

**Office of the National Director of Human Resources**  
Health Service Executive  
Dr. Steevens' Hospital  
Dublin 8

Tel: 01 6352319 Email: [nationalhr@hse.ie](mailto:nationalhr@hse.ie)

04/07/2019

Mary Butler T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 26816/19** To ask the Minister for Health if the requirement for travel time payments to homecare support staff will have to be covered from the existing 2019 budget for homecare hours; if this will contribute to a reduction in hours available for persons in need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**PQ 26819/19** To ask the Minister for Health the procedures being put in place to provide the relevant information technology programme to facilitate the new rota requirements for homecare support staff that are now rostered five over seven days as per the recent agreement or contract

Dear Deputy,

I refer to your recent parliamentary question above which was sent to the HSE for reply.

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides for:

- 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

Home Support services for older people, funded by the HSE, are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. Where Home Help workers do not have a fixed place of work, the time they spend travelling between their home and their first and last customers each day counts as working time. The revised contract arising from the WRC agreement 2017/2018 provided for the assignment of a base for each staff member and in this way addressed the ECJ specific issue regarding travel time between home/first client & travel time between last client/home.



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

Building a  
Better Health  
Service



[www.hse.ie/changeguide](http://www.hse.ie/changeguide)

"To view the Health Services People Strategy 2015-2018, please click [here](#)."

The HSE, in consultation with SIPTU, has reviewed the current home help contracts to ensure that HSE Home Help contracts reflect the needs of the service, to maximise contracted hours for HSE directly employed home helps, and to take further steps towards professionalising the Home Support Service.

The parties are collectively working to enhance the Home Support Service, whilst acknowledging the very positive aspects of the current service. Additional funding was provided in 2019 to address the cost implications of the revised contract for HCSAs. The HSE is currently in the process of implementing all aspects of the WRC Agreement.

If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Ursula Galvin**  
**Business Manager**