



10th July 2019

Deputy Denis Naughten, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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 27150/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting on home help hours in each CHO area; the number of hours required to meet that need; the number of persons in receipt of home help that are approved for additional hours; the number of hours required to meet that need in each CHO; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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

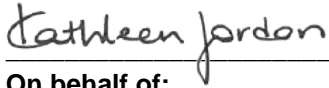
The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources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

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of May 2019. As of this date, 7,157,942 home support hours were delivered nationally to 52,382 people while 6,819 people were waiting for funding to be allocated. Of those waiting, 1,871 are already in receipt of home support service, however require additional support. Given the average weekly hours per client of between 6.5hrs, this would equate to a requirement of an additional 371,794 hours to year end. (See Table 1 below for a breakdown per CHO).

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 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. 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



On behalf of:

Sandra Tuohy

Assistant National Director

Older Persons Services - Operations

Table 1 – Home Support Waiting List: May 2019 YTD (Preliminary Data)

CHO	Waiting List - 31st May 2019	Hours Required to Meet Demand to YE	Waiting on Funding for New Service	Hours Required to Meet Demand to YE	Waiting on Funding for Additional Service	Hours Required to Meet Demand to YE
National Total	6,819	1,355,033	4,948	983,238	1,871	371,794
CHO 1	742	147,446	379	75,313	363	72,133
CHO 2	779	154,798	669	132,940	110	21,859
CHO 3	523	103,928	392	77,896	131	26,032
CHO 4	286	56,832	150	29,807	136	27,025
CHO 5	768	152,613	570	113,267	198	39,345
CHO 6	208	41,333	139	27,621	69	13,711
CHO 7	1,080	214,611	941	186,990	139	27,621
CHO 8	523	103,928	395	78,492	128	25,435
CHO 9	1,910	379,544	1,313	260,912	597	118,632

**** Projections are effective from 1st June 2019 to Year End**