



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Head of Operations & Service Improvement  
Services for Older People

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Deputy John Curran T.D.  
Dáil Eireann,  
Lenister House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

26 March 2019

Dear Deputy Curran,

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 12080/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the progress that has been made to reduce the waiting list and time for home support; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 (preliminary data), 1,409,501 home support hours were delivered to 52,349 people which is an increase of 27,237 hours on the same period in 2018. As of the same date, there were 6,001 people waiting on funding for home support services, which is down from 6,085 on the same period last year.

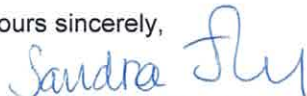
While the resources for the provision of home support are substantial, they are finite. The aim is to be as responsive as possible to all applications; however, given the changing demographics and limitation of the resource, delays can occur. In this context, those clients who are assessed and approved for home support, and who are not being provided immediately with a service, are risk assessed and placed on a waiting list for a resource as it becomes available. In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised.

The number of people waiting for funding for home support services, reflect a point in time. 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 resources and as determined by

local front line staff who know and understand the clients' needs, and who undertake regular reviews of those care needs to ensure that the services being provided remain appropriate.

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 crucial services.

Yours sincerely,



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**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director, Head of Operations & Service Improvement**  
**Services for Older People**