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Deputy Caoimhin O'Caolain, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Caolain,

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 19/19542

To ask the Minister for Health the number of approved homecare packages including home help hours applications for which no funding has been released per CHO area; the length of time the longest of these is waiting the release of funds to allow the packages commence; and if he will make a statement on the matter

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. With effect from the same date, home support activity reflects the total hours and clients across the Home Support Service for Older People, being the totality of the amalgamated former Home Help Service and Home Care Package Scheme. Intensive Home Care Packages remain separate.

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

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of March 2019. As of this date, 6,238 people were waiting for funding for their home support service. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of these by CHO.

Data in the detailed format requested (i.e. the length of time the longest of these is waiting the release of funds to allow the packages commence) is not currently collated nationally. While the information is available locally from client records, it would require considerable resources to gather this information centrally.

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

Appendix 1
Total Number of Clients Waiting for Funding by CHO - Mar 2019

CHO	Waiting List- Mar 2019
National Total	6,238
CHO 1	519
CHO 2	788
CHO 3	483
CHO 4	119
CHO 5	610
CHO 6	196
CHO 7	1176
CHO 8	542
CHO 9	1,805