



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta  
Tel: 061 483245  
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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations  
Services for Older People  
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27 May 2019

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

Dear Deputy Browne,

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 20692/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting additional home help hours in County Wexford; the national average of the number of persons awaiting home help hours; 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 April 2019. As of this date, 6,310 people nationally have been assessed and are waiting for funding for a home support service. Of the 6,310, 562 people are waiting in LHO Wexford.

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.



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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. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director – Operations**  
**Services for Older People**