



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
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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 Brendan Smith, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 21330/19

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons approved for home help in CHO 1 and CHO 2 areas and awaiting provision for same; 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

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years' increases. All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs. In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised.

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of April 2019. As of this date, 6,310 people nationally were waiting for funding for a home support service. Of the 6,310; 652 in CHO 1 and 774 in CHO 2 have been assessed and waiting for funding in each of these respective areas. The numbers on the waiting list reflect a point in time and 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 resource and as determined by local front line staff who know and understand the clients' needs. If clients are assessed and approved for home support and funding is not immediately available, these cases are included on the waiting list for funding.



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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 home support services. The changes being implemented by the HSE to streamline the current services will support the work being undertaken by the Department.

Yours sincerely,

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

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Older Persons Services - Operations