



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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

Tel: 061 483245  
Email: [olderpeople.operations@hse.ie](mailto:olderpeople.operations@hse.ie)

02<sup>nd</sup> December 2019

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

Dear Deputy Cowen,

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: 47767/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of open applications for assistance under the Fair Deal; the average time it takes between application and the completion of the application in cases in which funding is released and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**The number of open applications for assistance under the Fair Deal Scheme;**

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2019 there were 1,473 Fair Deal applications in progress. The HSE receives approximately 10,000 applications for NHSS annually.

**The average time it takes between application and the completion of the application in cases in which funding is released;**

The average processing time for applications received and completed between the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 and the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2019 was just over four weeks. Of those, 37% were completed in less than two weeks. However due to the complex nature of some applications, the overall average processing time is longer.

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme operates a national placement list for funding approval. The current average waiting time for clients on the national placement list is 3-4 weeks.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

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