



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Baile Átha Cliath Theas, Cill Dara & Iarthar Chill Mhantáin  
- Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Teach Darach, Ascaill na gCrann Teil  
Páirc na Mílaoise, An Nás, Co. Chill Dara  
W91KDC2

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Health Service Executive  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow  
- Community Healthcare  
Oak House, Lime Tree Avenue  
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare  
W91KDC2

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

**Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin**  
**Dail Eireann**  
**Dublin 2**

**PQ 47895/19**

To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting times for homecare package applications in County Kildare; the number of open homecare package applications being considered in the area; the number of individual homecare packages being provided in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Fiona O'Loughlin

**Dear Deputy**

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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

A number of support services are engaged to deliver support to persons in their homes across Kildare West Wicklow. The following details were reported as of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| • Home Support Hours delivered year to date          | 584,544 hours |
| • No. of Clients in receipt of Home Support          | 1,895         |
| • No. of persons waiting on funding for Home Support | 254           |

Whilst our home support budget is significant it is finite and we are obliged to operate within our allocated resources. Due to the overwhelming demands for Home Support that continue to rise, a waiting list remains in effect. We are dependent on hours to return to our home care package system through recycling which we commenced in February 2019.

In addition to attempting to facilitate as many discharges from the acute services particularly over the coming winter months, we will continue to work with our colleagues in the community in identifying those persons who are most vulnerable and at risk.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or should require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Yours sincerely**

**Carol Cuffe**  
Head of Social Care  
Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare