



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Disability Services/Community Operations,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Deputy Margaret Murphy O'Mahony,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [margaret.murphyomahony@oireachtas.ie](mailto:margaret.murphyomahony@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Murphy O'Mahony,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ 40491/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours by LHO area at the end of September 2019 or latest date available; the number on the waiting list for same by LHO area; the number waiting for periods (details supplied) in tabular form.*

Details supplied: 0-3 months; the number waiting 3-6 months; the number waiting 6-12 months; and the number waiting 12 months plus.

**PQ 40492/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours by LHO area at the end of September 2019 or latest date available; the number on the waiting list for same by LHO area; the number waiting for periods (details supplied) in tabular form.*

Details Supplied: the number waiting 0-3 months; the number waiting 3-6 months; the number waiting 6-12 months; and the number waiting 12 months.

**HSE Response**

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available

for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) services and Home Support services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2019 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to provide 1.63 million hours of personal assistance to more than 2,500 people with a disability, representing an increase of 170,000 hours over the 2018 target of 1.46 million hours. The HSE will also provide 3.08 million hours of Home Support to adults and children with a disability, an increase of 150,000 hours over the 2018 target of 2.93 million hours.

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in Quarter 2 2019. (Information for end of September/Q3 2019 is not yet available)

**Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability Q2, 2019**

	<b>Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services</b>	<b>Number of Hours PA Services Delivered</b>
<b>CHO</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>
<b>National Total</b>	2,550	417,886
CHO Area 1	253	33,753
CHO Area 2	462	78,602
CHO Area 3	427	84,024
CHO Area 4	439	32,186
CHO Area 5	422	40,123
CHO Area 6	9	5,481
CHO Area 7	48	13,797
CHO Area 8	271	45,424
CHO Area 9	219	84,496

**Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability Q2, 2019**

	<b>Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services</b>	<b>Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered</b>
<b>CHO</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>	<b>Q2 2019</b>
<b>National Total</b>	7,143	758,311
CHO Area 1	684	76,030
CHO Area 2	695	44,723
CHO Area 3	501	46,174
CHO Area 4	622	56,905
CHO Area 5	970	89,217
CHO Area 6	602	98,185
CHO Area 7	1,069	112,526
CHO Area 8	1,111	118,974
CHO Area 9	889	115,578

No additional funding had been provided for these services to the HSE since 2008 and as a result waiting lists are not maintained as a matter of course. Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of

the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in excess of 376 people will require Home Support services in the future and 291 people are listed as awaiting PA services. Please note that as the National Disability Databases are not mandatory it is quite possible there is an under reporting of the need.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**