



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,
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Deputy Pat the Cope Gallagher
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

22nd October 2019

PQ ref 42394/19

To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting time for home help package applications in County Donegal; the length of time after approval of home help it takes within the County to receive the service in the applicants home; the number of applicants waiting for homecare at present in County Donegal; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Gallagher

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.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position for County Donegal.

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. Access to the service is based on assessment of a person's needs by the HSE, having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

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

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 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.

In Co Donegal, the number of applicants waiting for homecare at present is a total of 292 people, with 180 new and 112 for increased hours. The current average waiting time is 16 weeks.

The Home Care Service does not capture data on the length of time after approval of home help to receive the service in the applicant's home, as each case is different depending on the demand in the area.

I trust that this is of assistance, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Collum".

Martin Collum
General Manager
Services for Older Persons
CHO 1.