



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,  
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,  
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An  
Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

Mr. Sean Fleming T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: Parliamentary Question – 43113/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the action to be taken to reduce the waiting list for homecare packages in County Laois in which the number waiting have seen a significant increase to date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Sean Fleming**

Dear Deputy Fleming,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your parliamentary question in relation to the action to be taken to reduce the waiting list for homecare packages in County Laois.

Home Support Services is a non-statutory scheme, the aim of which is to support an Older Person living at home. The quantity of services is limited to available budget.

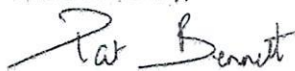
As of 30th September 2019 Laois/Offaly had 159 clients on a waiting list for home support hours. The waiting list has grown considerably over the last year as the demand for home support continues to grow and exceeds the level of funding available. Local services continue to profile priority home support clients based on assessed needs and are working to provide services based on that priority profile.

At the end of September, Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation was continuing to deliver home support services to 5,296 clients with a total of 137,437 hours. These hours have since increased and will be available following the next Key Performance Indicators return mid-November. The expenditure on Older Persons Home Support services in Midlands Louth Meath Community Healthcare Organisation in September 2019 was €3,755,797. The allocation of funding for home supports across the system, though significant, is finite and services must be delivered within the funding available.

For the remainder of 2019, additional home support hours will be provided to support people being discharged from hospital or to prevent admission. Funding for these additional hours has been provided by our national Services for Older Person offices. Please be assured our local services will maximise the use of these additional hours over the coming weeks.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Bennett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Pat Bennett  
Chief Officer CHO Area 8