



**Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí**

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Tel: 061 483245

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

**Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations**

Services for Older People

Tel: 061 483245

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

**29 December 2020**

**Deputy Jackie Cahill, TD**  
**Dáil Eireann,**  
**Leinster House,**  
**Kildare Street,**  
**Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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 41201/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of home help hours done by agencies in half hour, hour and greater than an hour slots in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 41200/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of home help hours done by agencies in half hour, hour and greater than an hour slots in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 42305/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons waiting for home support hours at the end of November 2020 in the north Tipperary east Limerick LHO area and in the south Tipperary LHO area; the way in which this compares to the same date in 2019; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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

The home support service which people receive is based on an individual client's care needs which are assessed by clinical staff and the home support provided will vary having regard for the level of dependency, individual ability to undertake activities of daily living and other support structures in place, such as attendance at day care. In some instances, a person's home support allocation may be higher or lower than the average depending on their individual assessed needs.

In relation to your query regarding the county of Tipperary, this county falls into two CHO areas and is split over two LHO's (Local Health Offices) - North Tipperary/East Limerick (CHO3) & South Tipperary (CHO5). Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of October 2020. As of this date, 641,041 home support hours were delivered to 2,543 people. Also, as of this date, the waiting list for both LHOs, were clear. In relation to hours provided through indirect service, 163,562 hours were delivered by this date. Please note that the

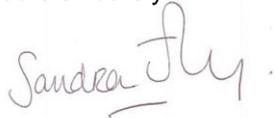
information you requested in relation to “*half hour, hour and greater than an hour slots*”, is not currently collated nationally and is therefore unavailable.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of people assessed and waiting on funding for home support in 2020 – this has been as a result of a number of factors including validation of waiting lists and availability of funding to address those waiting. Further funding to provide an additional 5m hours in 2021, as part of the Winter Plan 2020/2021, will enable the HSE to keep the number of clients assessed and waiting on funding to a minimum in addition to the provision of packages of care to support reablement and those with complex care needs in order to avoid long-term care. This will amount to a service provision of approximately 24m hours in 2021. Please see appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the waiting list data for the region as at end of October 2020 and 2019.

As the country moves through the parameters of the new “Roadmap for Living with Covid”, the HSE continues to work closely with providers and community staff to identify where service is most required. This is to ensure, insofar as possible, that Home Support Services can continue where needed most. The requirements of physical distancing must be encouraged, supported and maintained so as to keep our staff and service users safe and prevent any further spread of the virus.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services

Yours sincerely



---

**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Services for Older People – Operations**

**APPENDIX 1 – Waiting List Data: October 2019 vs October 2020 – County Tipperary**

CHO	LHO	HS Waiting List		
		% Reduction	Oct-20	Oct-19
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>CHO3</b>	North Tipperary East Limerick	100%	-	97
<b>CHO5</b>	South Tipperary	100%	-	13