



4 August 2020

Deputy Patricia Ryan, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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 16954/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for homecare support; his plan to deal with same; 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.

As a result of the impact of Covid-19 and the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed (with data coverage issues in some areas) therefore available data is preliminary and may be subject to change. Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of June 2020. As of this date, 8,369,634 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,331 people. Also, as of this date, there were 5,689 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. See table below for a breakdown by LHO/CHO.

The number of people waiting for funding for home support services, reflect a point in time. Those people who are on the waiting list have been assessed and are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resources, having regard to the client's assessed needs and current Public Health advice.

As the country moves through the phases of the easing of Government restrictions, 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.

As this is an evolving and unprecedented situation, the HSE will keep matters under review and will advise clients and/or family members accordingly. Furthermore, the HSE acknowledges the valuable role of carers and families,

home support workers and providers across the services in supporting older people and their care groups throughout this challenging period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations

Table 1 – Home Support Waiting List – June 2020 (Preliminary Data)

CHO	LHO	Jun-20		
		Total	New	Additional
National Total		5,689	4,186	1,503
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	82	56	26
	Donegal	167	117	50
	Sligo Leitrim	-	-	-
	CHO 1	249	173	76
CHO 2	Galway	117	103	14
	Mayo	244	239	5
	Roscommon	59	57	2
	CHO 2	420	399	21
CHO 3	Clare	326	257	69
	Limerick	239	142	97
	North Tipperary East Limerick	118	39	79
	CHO 3	683	438	245
CHO 4	Kerry	56	47	9
	North Cork	55	40	15
	North Lee	115	71	44
	South Lee	170	117	53
	West Cork	172	88	84
	CHO 4	568	363	205
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	-	-	-
	South Tipperary	-	-	-
	Waterford	262	151	111
	Wexford	790	594	196
	CHO 5	1,052	745	307
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	-	-
	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-
	Wicklow	-	-	-
	CHO 6	-	-	-
CHO 7	Dublin South City	328	284	44
	Dublin South West	344	275	69
	Dublin West	273	202	71
	Kildare West Wicklow	287	210	77
	CHO 7	1,232	971	261
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	94	52	42
	Longford Westmeath	74	23	51
	Louth	121	85	36
	Meath	302	242	60
	CHO 8	591	402	189
CHO 9	Dublin North	123	79	44
	Dublin North Central	102	65	37
	Dublin North West	669	551	118
	CHO 9	894	695	199