



Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí

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4 August 2020

Deputy David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 16979/20

To ask the Minister for Health the current homecare waiting times; 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.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Tuohy', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations