



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Head of Older People Services,  
HSE Offices,  
Lacken,  
Dublin Road,  
Kilkenny.

Telephone 353 56 7784140

10<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Mr. Johnny Mythen T.D.,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 19414/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for homecare support in County Wexford; the number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in County Wexford; the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Mythen ,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position;*

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. Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community. Home Support services for older people are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services.

The Wexford Home Support Service provides 55,668 hours per month to 1,626 clients in the Wexford area.

Despite the significant level of service provision, as with other areas, the demand for Home Support continues to grow and waiting lists have become a feature. People who have been assessed and approved for services are included on the Home Support waiting list in accordance with National Guidelines. A client's place on the waiting list is determined by their care needs and the date of application for the service. Clients on the waiting list are reviewed regularly so that their priority ranking on the waiting list reflects their care needs.

Priority is given to hospital discharges and clients with the highest priority score on the waiting list.

There are currently 594 people in the Wexford area waiting for home supports services. For a number of these individuals, whilst funding is available for their service, however similar to other areas there are challenges in terms of the availability of staffing resources.

The HSE does not routinely collate average hours per client - rather specific hours allocated for each individual client based on their need is recorded. In addition Home Support Services are subject to review and may increase or decrease in accordance with assessed need

I trust this is of assistance. Should you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

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**Barbara Murphy,**  
**Head of Older People Services,**  
**South East Community Healthcare**