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7 August 2020

**Deputy Martin Kenny, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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 20350/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that are awaiting homecare support in CHO1 and CHO2; the number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in CHO1 and CHO2; the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant; 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 spread of COVID-19 throughout our communities has posed significant challenges for many areas of our Older Person's Services, including Home Support Services. The HSE engaged in a detailed prioritisation review early on in the Pandemic so as to identify those most in need of services. In addition, the Local Authorities have taken a lead role in working with community and voluntary agencies in relation to supporting people to remain at home by providing & co-ordinating a range of supports, such as Meals on Wheels, collection and delivery of food, essential household items, fuel, medication etc.

The HSE continues to review both those clients whose home support service may have been temporarily suspended and those clients of higher priority currently in receipt of home support services, to consider if an individual client's level of need has altered and regard given to the level and types of service that could be provided which may require a restoration of service, additional home support service or the provision of other forms of support through community and voluntary services.

The HSE also keeps in review those clients who are presently waiting on funding to commence their home support service and where funding becomes available, may have their service commenced, having regard to the client's assessed needs and Public Health advice.

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. In relation to your query regarding CHO1 and CHO2, preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of June 2020. As of this date;

CHO1 - 790,051 home support hours were delivered to 3,969 people with 249 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support.

CHO2 – 957,401 home support hours were delivered to 6,015 people with 420 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support.

(Please see tables 1 and 2 below for a breakdown of service delivery in this area in 2019 and YTD June 2020, including the average hours delivered in each month.)

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



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations

Table 1 – Home Support Activity 2019 – CHO1 & CHO2

	LHO	Target/EA Full	Outturn													
		Year	2019	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	June 19	July 19	Aug 19	Sept 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	
CHO1	Hours	Cavan Monaghan	434,460	430,027	44,099	37,126	40,679	35,918	38,069	33,734	34,132	34,497	33,835	31,073	35,013	31,852
		Donegal	766,903	762,626	61,978	64,100	62,261	63,658	62,471	62,472	63,792	63,852	61,169	65,524	64,676	66,673
		Sligo Leitrim	518,637	479,254	41,063	39,678	41,989	38,762	40,140	37,438	40,581	40,608	44,397	39,582	38,034	36,982
		Total	1,720,000	1,671,907	147,140	140,904	144,929	138,338	140,680	133,644	138,505	138,957	139,401	136,179	137,723	135,507
	Clients	Cavan Monaghan	1,342	1,117	1,315	1,322	1,215	1,192	1,189	1,172	1,159	1,138	1,122	1,122	1,131	1,117
		Donegal	1,569	1,515	1,631	1,639	1,618	1,605	1,591	1,579	1,555	1,544	1,506	1,561	1,532	1,515
		Sligo Leitrim	1,516	1,501	1,340	1,364	1,377	1,331	1,300	1,282	1,263	1,259	1,292	1,365	1,439	1,501
		Total	4,427	4,133	4,286	4,325	4,210	4,128	4,080	4,033	3,977	3,941	3,920	4,048	4,102	4,133
	Average Weekly Hours Delivered			7.76	7.75	8.14	7.77	7.82	7.79	7.73	7.86	7.96	8.30	7.60	7.83	7.40
	CHO2	Hours	Galway	965,471	965,024	82,366	75,099	79,233	78,585	83,392	75,574	84,114	78,909	77,643	80,856	84,792
Mayo			649,005	552,844	43,992	43,302	44,269	45,545	47,354	42,769	46,400	48,101	46,138	51,851	47,044	46,081
Roscommon			367,524	329,533	27,664	24,768	26,877	27,678	28,473	26,759	27,621	28,721	27,543	28,435	28,886	26,109
Total			1,982,000	1,847,401	154,022	143,169	150,379	151,808	159,219	145,102	158,135	155,731	151,324	161,142	160,722	156,651
Clients		Galway	3,121	3,141	3,021	3,026	3,059	3,048	3,021	3,026	3,071	3,071	3,054	3,075	3,130	3,141
		Mayo	1,814	1,896	1,823	1,831	1,835	1,850	1,856	1,884	1,899	1,897	1,905	1,905	1,916	1,896
		Roscommon	1,095	910	1,091	1,089	1,069	1,057	1,034	1,033	1,044	1,031	1,025	875	895	910
		Total	6,030	5,947	5,935	5,946	5,963	5,955	5,911	5,943	6,014	5,999	5,984	5,855	5,941	5,947
Average Weekly Hours Delivered			5.96	5.86	6.02	5.69	5.95	6.08	5.70	5.94	5.86	5.90	6.21	6.31	5.95	

Table 2 – Home Support Activity June 2020 YTD – CHO1 & CHO2

	LHO	Target/EA Full	Activity YTD							
		Year	2020	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	June 20	
CHO1	Hours	Cavan Monaghan	452,567	203,044	30,227	33,422	35,347	34,464	34,918	34,666
		Donegal	798,648	370,468	61,848	54,391	64,125	61,971	66,763	61,370
		Sligo Leitrim	540,105	216,539	37,465	35,542	36,108	35,302	36,026	36,096
		Total	1,791,320	790,051	129,540	123,355	135,580	131,737	137,707	132,132
	Clients	Cavan Monaghan	1,185	1,165	1,113	1,127	1,135	1,123	1,131	1,165
		Donegal	1,604	1,555	1,519	1,538	1,535	1,466	1,533	1,555
		Sligo Leitrim	1,311	1,249	1,320	1,351	1,195	1,236	1,227	1,249
		Total	4,100	3,969	3,952	4,016	3,865	3,825	3,891	3,969
	Average Weekly Hours Delivered			3.82	7.40	7.68	7.92	8.04	7.99	7.77
	CHO2	Hours	Galway	1,000,215	502,089	85,949	79,704	85,437	84,439	83,880
Mayo			672,355	293,405	46,391	48,146	49,880	50,255	49,738	48,994
Roscommon			380,750	161,907	26,735	25,000	26,954	26,524	28,770	27,925
Total			2,053,320	957,401	159,075	152,850	162,271	161,218	162,388	159,600
Clients		Galway	3,171	3,106	3,093	3,162	3,136	3,061	3,063	3,106
		Mayo	1,959	1,953	1,918	1,933	1,936	1,931	1,947	1,953
		Roscommon	1,065	956	937	956	940	948	953	956
		Total	6,195	6,015	5,948	6,051	6,012	5,940	5,963	6,015
Average Weekly Hours Delivered			3.05	6.04	6.32	6.09	6.33	6.15	6.19	