



Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí

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26 June 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 10843/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for homecare packages; the number of persons experiencing delayed discharge from hospital due to a delay accessing homecare; and the waiting lists for homecare packages by CHO and LHO on the latest date available in tabular form.

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.

As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of May 2020. As of this date, 6,922,757 home support hours were delivered nationally to 50,870 people. Also, as of this date, there were 6,076 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support.

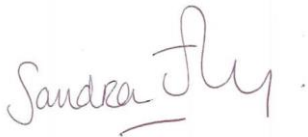
In relation to patients within the acute hospital system who are awaiting discharge home, the latest data available relates to week ending 16 June 2020; as of that date 83 patients are awaiting discharge, 48 for home support of which 18 have been clinically assessed and are waiting for funding, 30 applications for home support and the remaining 35 patients are waiting on other community support such as equipment or home adaptations.

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 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 Waiting List – April 2020 (Preliminary Data)

Home Support Waiting List Analysis

Report Month: May 2020

CHO	LHO	May-20		
		Total	New	Additional
National Total		6,076	4,481	1,595
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	152	88	64
	Donegal	192	136	56
	Sligo Leitrim	-	-	-
	CHO 1	344	224	120
CHO 2	Galway	143	126	17
	Mayo	245	240	5
	Roscommon	61	59	2
	CHO 2	449	425	24
CHO 3	Clare	297	234	63
	Limerick	186	128	58
	North Tipperary East Limerick	107	49	58
	CHO 3	590	411	179
CHO 4	Kerry	73	62	11
	North Cork	59	43	16
	North Lee	178	94	84
	South Lee	189	127	62
	West Cork	177	105	72
	CHO 4	676	431	245
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	21	-	21
	South Tipperary	-	-	-
	Waterford	294	172	122
	Wexford	867	631	236
	CHO 5	1,182	803	379
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	-	-
	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-
	Wicklow	-	-	-
	CHO 6	-	-	-
CHO 7	Dublin South City	252	252	-
	Dublin South West	245	245	-
	Dublin West	212	177	35
	Kildare West Wicklow	269	221	48
	CHO 7	978	895	83
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	109	65	44
	Longford Westmeath	89	25	64
	Louth	108	80	28
	Meath	460	323	137
	CHO 8	766	493	273
CHO 9	Dublin North	249	128	121
	Dublin North Central	117	75	42
	Dublin North West	725	596	129
	CHO 9	1,091	799	292