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24th March 2020

Deputy Ged Nash,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 2812/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the average time allocated per visit to persons in terms of homecare packages in each of the years 2018 and 2019, by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter

-Ged Nash

Dear Deputy Nash,

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

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 2020 National Service Plan provides for;

- 18.9m home support hours to be delivered to 53,700 people inclusive of 770,000 hours/2,210 home support packages funded under the Winter Initiative 2019/2020 and 230,000 hours to be provided as part of a Home Support Pilot Scheme to commence in Q2 2020
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years' increases. All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs. In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised.

As at 31st January 2020, there were 51,508 people in receipt of home support 1,414,429 home support hours have been provided (preliminary data). Data in the requested format (the average time allocated per visit to persons) is not currently collated nationally; however this data may be available locally.

Home Support is allocated to clients based on assessed need and varies client to client with the overall average weekly allocation being 6.5hours per week. See Appendix 1 below for data on total hours delivered in 2018 and 2019.

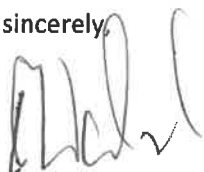
The HSE are aiming to improve home support services so that people can remain living with confidence, dignity and security in their own homes. While the existing service is delivering crucial support across the country, it is recognised that home support services need to be augmented to better meet the changing needs of our older population

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Work is currently being progressed in relation to this work which will provide a baseline for the design of an effective, sustainable service as part of the development of a statutory Home Support Service.

Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations

Appendix 1 – Home Support Hours Delivered 2018 and 2019

Home Support Hours Delivered			
CHO	LHO	2018	2019
National Total		17,130,453	17,485,463
CHO 1	Total	1,694,036	1,671,908
	Cavan Monaghan	469,617	430,027
	Donegal	736,345	762,626
	Sligo Leitrim	488,074	479,254
CHO 2	Total	1,787,709	1,847,400
	Galway	961,668	965,024
	Mayo	511,271	552,844
	Roscommon	314,770	329,533
CHO 3	Total	1,456,803	1,504,922
	Clare	439,909	460,968
	Limerick	562,219	578,207
	North Tipperary East Limerick	454,675	465,748
CHO 4	Total	2,707,162	2,730,758
	Kerry	680,086	697,669
	North Cork	430,092	416,144
	North Lee	548,201	571,338
	South Lee	701,401	708,869
	West Cork	347,382	336,739
CHO 5	Total	1,927,217	1,942,502
	Carlow Kilkenny	500,995	501,493
	South Tipperary	393,837	387,296
	Waterford	381,853	371,972
	Wexford	650,532	681,741
CHO 6	Total	1,301,981	1,364,889
	Dublin South East	355,038	349,536
	Dun Laoghaire	459,712	517,268
	Wicklow	487,232	498,085
CHO 7	Total	1,880,560	2,024,615
	Dublin South City	397,457	378,729
	Dublin South West	483,586	503,937
	Dublin West	444,711	407,303
	Kildare West Wicklow	554,806	734,646
CHO 8	Total	1,616,808	1,717,794
	Laois Offaly	417,136	444,667
	Longford Westmeath	346,950	415,969
	Louth	421,537	399,367
	Meath	431,186	457,791
CHO 9	Total	2,758,176	2,680,675
	Dublin North	1,086,803	959,302
	Dublin North Central Dublin North West	888,469 782,904	919,943 801,430