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18th March 2020

Deputy Mary Butler,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 3283/20 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for homecare support packages by county in tabular form

PQ 3284/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of the one million home care hours promised in Budget 2020 that have been allocated in January and February 2020

-Mary Butler

Dear Deputy Butler,

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 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 relating to the Home Support Pilot Scheme to commence Q2 2020
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

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.

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.

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of January 2020. As of this date, 1,414,429 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,508 people. Also, as of this date, there were 7,888 people

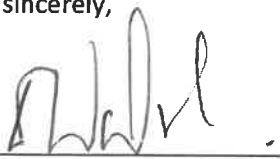
waiting for funding for home support for new or additional services. See Appendix 1 for the waiting list as at end of January 2020.

The delivery of the additional 770,000 hours as contained within NSP 2020 comprises the full year value of hours allocated in Q4 2019 and hours to be phased in over Q1 and Q4 2020 under the Winter Plan 2019/2020. These hours have been included in activity targets at CHO/LHO level and will be delivered by year end 2020.

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. 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 support services. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations

Appendix 1 Waiting List

CHO	LHO	Jan 2020
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	206
CHO 1	Donegal	272
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	14
CHO 1	Total	492
CHO 2	Galway	171
CHO 2	Mayo	267
CHO 2	Roscommon	74
CHO 2	Total	512
CHO 3	Clare	556
CHO 3	Limerick	284
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	104
CHO 3	Total	944
CHO 4	Kerry	46
CHO 4	North Cork	55
CHO 4	North Lee	211
CHO 4	South Lee	192
CHO 4	West Cork	210
CHO 4	Total	714
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	78
CHO 5	South Tipperary	53
CHO 5	Waterford	266
CHO 5	Wexford	990
CHO 5	Total	1,387
CHO 6	Dublin South East	1
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	0
CHO 6	Wicklow	0
CHO 6	Total	1
CHO 7	Dublin South City	270
CHO 7	Dublin South West	300
CHO 7	Dublin West	230
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	281
CHO 7	Total	1,081
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	121
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	115
CHO 8	Louth	221
CHO 8	Meath	524
CHO 8	Total	981
CHO 9	Dublin North	726
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	100
CHO 9	Dublin North West	950
CHO 9	Total	1,776
National Total		7,888.00