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18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Deputy Louise O'Reilly,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 3578/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if stroke patients requiring homecare packages in CHO7 come under the remit of disability services; the situation in other CHOs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Louise O'Reilly**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

Department of Health policy states that, in the context of current legislation, access to Home Support is based on assessed need and is not means tested. Accordingly, applicant's care needs are assessed by the HSE to determine their requirement for a Home Support Service. The level of support allocated, if any, will have regard to, and support, the assessed needs of the individual, within the limits of the resources available for the service

Home Support is primarily provided for those aged over 65 with clinically assessed needs, however clients who are aged under 65 with assessed needs are also considered.

While the aim is to be as responsive as possible to applications for home support, delays where they do occur can be due to a number of factors including resource, staffing and/or process issues.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walsh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David Walsh,  
National Director,  
Community Operations