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18/03/2020

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

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 3589/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons waiting for home support packages; and the waiting list for home support by community health organisation and local health office, in tabular form.

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 new or additional home support. Please refer to Appendix 1 for breakdown of the waiting list by CHO/LHO.

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.

Appendix 1
Home Support Waiting List
January 2020

LHO	
Cavan Monaghan	206.0
Donegal	272.0
Sligo Leitrim	14.0
Total	492.0
Galway	171.0
Mayo	267.0
Roscommon	74.0
Total	512.0
Clare	556.0
Limerick	284.0
North Tipperary East Limerick	104.0
Total	944.0
Kerry	46.0
North Cork	55.0
North Lee	211.0
South Lee	192.0
West Cork	210.0
Total	714.0
Carlow Kilkenny	78.0
South Tipperary	53.0
Waterford	266.0
Wexford	990.0
Total	1,387.0
Dublin South East	1.0
Dun Laoghaire	0.0
Wicklow	0.0
Total	1.0
Dublin South City	270.0
Dublin South West	300.0
Dublin West	230.0
Kildare West Wicklow	281.0
Total	1,081.0
Laois Offaly	121.0
Longford Westmeath	115.0
Louth	221.0
Meath	524.0
Total	981.0
Dublin North	726.0
Dublin North Central	100.0
Dublin North West	950.0
	1,776.0
National Total	7,888.0