



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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16th March 2020

Deputy James Browne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: james.browne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 3607/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area at the end of February 2020 or the latest date available; the number on waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus.

PQ 3608/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area at the end of February 2020 or the latest date available; the number on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) services and Home Support services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2019 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to

provide 1.63 million hours of personal assistance to more than 2,500 people with a disability, representing an increase of 170,000 hours over the 2018 target of 1.46 million hours. The HSE will also provide 3.08 million hours of Home Support to adults and children with a disability, an increase of 150,000 hours over the 2018 target of 2.93 million hours.

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services to end of Q3, 2019. The data for PA and Home Support Services is collated on a quarterly basis, one month in arrears. Therefore, the final figures for 2019 are currently being validated and will be available next month.

Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability end of Q3, 2019

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	Q3 2019	Q3 2019
National Total	2,521	1,247,417
CHO Area 1	255	101,252
CHO Area 2	398	224,356
CHO Area 3	433	250,337
CHO Area 4	444	96,887
CHO Area 5	417	121,703
CHO Area 6	9	16,392
CHO Area 7	48	45,031
CHO Area 8	271	140,460
CHO Area 9	246	250,999

Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability end of Q3, 2019

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	Q3 2019	Q3 2019
National Total	7,322	2,343,839
CHO Area 1	793	228,257
CHO Area 2	539	121,724
CHO Area 3	525	149,989
CHO Area 4	632	184,530
CHO Area 5	1,004	268,399
CHO Area 6	604	291,712
CHO Area 7	1,035	331,371
CHO Area 8	1,150	382,378
CHO Area 9	1,040	385,478

Personal Assistant and Home Support Services are on target to deliver NSP 2019 levels of service, with PA 2% above target and Home Support 1.5% above target in Q3. In line with national policy and Transforming Lives, the focus in recent years has been to enable people with disabilities to live lives of their choosing. The provision of PA and Home Support hours is an essential component of this.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2020 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support to approximately 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.67 million PA hours and 3.08 million Home Support hours.

Additional €1m allocation for PA services in 2020

A total of 40,000 additional hours, with a full year cost of €1 million has been provided for in NSP 2020. These will be used, in addition to home support services, to benefit approximately 10,000 with disabilities. These essential supports assist people with disabilities to remain living in their own home and to participate in their local communities.

In addition, the HSE will deliver 144 intensive transitional support packages for children and young people with complex / high support needs focusing on families experiencing substantial levels of support need, but who do not require a high cost long term placement. Specifically, this new development initiative is the pre-crisis intervention stage and will include:

- intensive in-home visiting supports
- planned residential respite interventions
- specialist behavioural support interventions
- access to planned extended day / weekend and summer day based activities

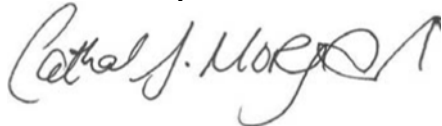
Waiting Lists

No additional funding had been provided for these services to the HSE since 2008 and as a result waiting lists are not maintained as a matter of course. Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for Personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in excess of 376 people will require Home Support services in the future and 291 people are listed as awaiting PA services. Please note that as the National Disability Databases are not mandatory it is quite possible there is an under reporting of the need.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Cathal Morgan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations