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31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Deputy Thomas Pringle,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 3869/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of providing 10,000 hours of HSE provided home help support in the community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Thomas Pringle**

Dear Deputy Pringle,

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.

The estimated cost to provide 10,000 hours of home support is in the region of €252,600 based on 10,000 hours at €25.26 per hour.

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 with a large initial 'D'.

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David Walsh,  
National Director,  
Community Operations