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18/03/2020

Deputy Frankie Feighan, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Feighan,

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 4675/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of clearing the home support waiting list; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

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 in 2020
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

It is estimated that in order to clear the current home support waiting list and to address those assessed and waiting for funding for home support, based on the average of 6.5hrs home support per client per week, the full year cost would be in the region of €66.5m.

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.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Tuohy  
Assistant National Director  
Services for Older People – Operations