



Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí

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Services for Older People

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10 June 2020

**Deputy Cian O'Callaghan, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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 7846/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for homecare packages by CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter

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 spread of COVID-19 throughout our communities has posed significant challenges for many areas of our Older Person's Services, including Home Support Services. The HSE engaged in a detailed prioritisation review early on in the Pandemic so as to identify those most in need of services. As a result of a review of client prioritisation, a number of clients with lower priority needs may have their home support service temporarily ceased or reduced with the support of family members and/or alternative forms of volunteer-provided local supports. Clients will be kept under review should individual circumstances change.

As a result of the national effort across all Community Healthcare Organisations throughout the country, some aspects of normal monthly reporting have been delayed. Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of April 2020. As of this date, 5,548,168 home support hours were delivered nationally to 50,845 people. Also, as of this date, there were 6,982 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. Please see table 1 below for a breakdown of this by LHO.

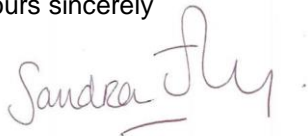
The HSE continues to review both those clients whose home support service may have been temporarily suspended and those clients of higher priority currently in receipt of home support services, to consider if an individual client's level of need has altered and regard given to the level and types of service that could be provided which may require a restoration of service, additional home support service or the provision of other forms of support through community and voluntary services. The HSE also keeps in review those clients who are presently waiting on funding to commence their home support service and where funding becomes available,

those which fall into either Priority 1 or 2 may have their service commenced, having regard to the client's assessed needs and Public Health advice.

As the country moves through Phase Two of the easing of Government restrictions, the HSE continues to work closely with providers and community staff to identify where service is most required. This is to ensure, insofar as possible, that Home Support Services can continue where needed most. The requirements of physical distancing must be encouraged, supported and maintained so as to keep our staff and service users safe and prevent any further spread of the virus.

As this is an evolving and unprecedented situation, the HSE will keep matters under review and will advise clients and/or family members accordingly. Furthermore, the HSE acknowledges the valuable role of carers and families, home support workers and providers across the services in supporting older people and their care groups throughout this difficult period.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations

Table 1 – Preliminary Data

Home Support Waiting List Analysis

Report Month: April 2020

CHO	LHO	Apr-20		
		Total	New	Additional
National Total		6,982	4,878	2,104
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	215	105	110
	Donegal	213	148	65
	Sligo Leitrim	-	-	-
	CHO 1	428	253	175
CHO 2	Galway	155	136	19
	Mayo	248	243	5
	Roscommon	62	60	2
	CHO 2	465	439	26
CHO 3	Clare	317	251	66
	Limerick	253	164	89
	North Tipperary East Limeric	106	53	53
	CHO 3	676	468	208
CHO 4	Kerry	89	78	11
	North Cork	55	39	16
	North Lee	170	79	91
	South Lee	198	131	67
	West Cork	211	119	92
	CHO 4	723	446	277
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	24	-	24
	South Tipperary	-	-	-
	Waterford	176	49	127
	Wexford	938	666	272
	CHO 5	1,138	715	423
CHO 6	Dublin South East	1	-	1
	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-
	Wicklow	-	-	-
	CHO 6	1	-	1
CHO 7	Dublin South City	296	243	53
	Dublin South West	314	260	54
	Dublin West	231	189	42
	Kildare West Wicklow	299	243	56
	CHO 7	1,140	935	205
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	109	65	44
	Longford Westmeath	91	26	65
	Louth	185	122	63
	Meath	514	351	163
	CHO 8	899	564	335
CHO 9	Dublin North	499	326	173
	Dublin North Central	117	77	40
	Dublin North West	896	655	241
	CHO 9	1,512	1,058	454