



20 October 2020

**Deputy Réada Cronin,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Cronin,

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: 28587/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home help hours and homecare packages provided nationally in each of the past five years; the number of such hours in north County Kildare in the same time frame; the cost of such provision to the Exchequer; 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.

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 August 2020. As of this date, 11,279,185 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,945 people. Also, as of this date, there were 4,030 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support.

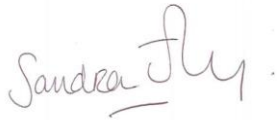
In relation to your query regarding north County Kildare, this county falls into just one LHO area within CHO7 and is shared with West Wicklow. As such, all data relating to same is recorded under that LHO, with no differentiation between hours associated with Kildare or hours associated with West Wicklow.

It should be noted that, with effect from 1 January 2018, funding for Home Help services and the Home Care Package Scheme was amalgamated into a single funded Home Support Service and activity reported on the number of home support hours delivered and the number of clients in receipt (point in time). Please see below appendices in respect of same, outlining activity in Kildare/West Wicklow over the period in question. Funding for Home Support services has increased from €306m in 2015 to €490m in 2020.

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 and as the country moves through the phases 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.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Homehelp / HCP Activity 2015 to 2017 (Inclusive)

CHO	Homehelp Hours			Homehelp Clients			HCPs Delivered		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
CHO1	1,407,751	1,462,017	1,442,265	4,922	5,215	5,634	1,272	1,345	1,378
CHO2	1,295,628	1,384,165	1,353,387	5,796	5,709	5,147	1,160	1,375	1,912
CHO3	949,074	960,387	922,119	3,652	3,457	3,365	950	1,028	1,149
CHO4	2,105,581	1,983,144	1,995,759	8,007	7,789	7,879	1,395	1,434	1,557
CHO5	1,204,980	1,213,568	1,146,958	5,900	5,583	5,785	887	1,044	1,242
CHO6	386,399	388,952	337,968	2,795	2,837	2,359	1,558	1,836	2,221
CHO7	710,151	714,997	638,601	5,189	5,080	4,415	2,049	1,953	3,060
CHO8	1,250,656	1,294,111	1,249,355	6,755	6,405	6,738	2,091	2,300	2,681
CHO9	1,145,232	1,145,393	1,299,527	4,899	4,881	4,921	3,910	4,036	4,607
Total	10,455,453	10,546,733	10,385,938	47,915	46,956	46,243	15,272	16,351	19,807

Appendix 2 – Home Support Activity 2018 to 2020 (August YTD)

CHO	Home Support Hours			Home Support Clients		
	2018	2019	2020 YTD	2018	2019	2020 YTD
CHO1	1,694,036	1,671,908	1,072,182	4,437	4,133	4,060
CHO2	1,787,709	1,847,400	1,303,115	5,983	5,947	6,134
CHO3	1,456,803	1,504,922	928,314	4,760	4,287	4,327
CHO4	2,707,162	2,730,758	1,747,809	8,994	8,772	8,694
CHO5	1,927,217	1,942,502	1,199,538	6,077	5,591	5,616
CHO6	1,301,981	1,364,889	901,822	4,353	4,160	4,059
CHO7	1,880,560	2,024,615	1,297,395	6,137	6,649	6,794
CHO8	1,616,808	1,161,262	1,088,736	5,600	5,105	5,259
CHO9	2,758,176	2,680,675	1,740,274	6,675	6,701	7,002
National	17,130,453	16,928,931	11,279,185	53,016	51,345	51,945

Appendix 3 – Kildare West Wicklow Activity 2015 to 2020 (August YTD)

		Homehelp / HCP Hours			HCPs / Home Help Clients			HCPs 2015 to 2017			Home Support Hours			Home Support Clients		
	LHO	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 Aug YTD	2018	2019	2020 Aug YTD
CHO7	Kildare/West Wicklow	280,477	302,155	315,300	1,603	1,676	1,679	465	477	734	554,806	251,606	397,972	1,857	1,921	1,805