

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett, Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí. **(: 057 9359787/774 *D:** <u>CHO8@hse.ie</u> Office of Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation, Health Service Executive, Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly **(: 057 9359787/774 ():** <u>CHO8@hse.ie</u>

2nd November, 2020

Mr Charles Flanagan T.D., Dáil Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question - 28699/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in counties Laois and Offaly that were granted home help hours in 2020; if numbers are above or below the national average; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Charles Flanagan

Dear Deputy Flanagan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline response as follows.

I wish to advise the number of persons for Laois/Offaly is 536 clients year to date, it is not possible to say with any degree of accuracy if that figure is above or below a National Average.

In the 2016 census Laois have 11.3% older population and Offaly have 13.6% which is below the national average of 14.2%. The demand is determined by the population profile of a specific area and the availability of other support services both voluntary and statutory e.g. family supports, age and depravation profiles Social Services, Active Retirement, Day Care Centres and the availability of Meals on wheels services.

Home support is a non statutory service based on local demand and available budget however additional funding for home support is expected as part of the Letter of Determination for the Winter Plan.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

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Pat Bennett Chief Officer CHO Area 8