



Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí

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Services for Older People

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22 September 2020

**Deputy Catherine Connolly, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Connolly,

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 21175/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for homecare packages; 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.

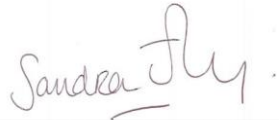
The number of people waiting for funding for home support services, reflect a point in time. Those people who are on the waiting list have been assessed and are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resources, having regard to the client's assessed needs and current Public Health advice.

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of July 2020. As of this date, 9,858,538 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,571 people. Also, as of this date, there were 4,550 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support.

As the country moves into the parameters of the new "Roadmap for Living with Covid", 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. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021.

Yours sincerely

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

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations