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29 September 2020

Deputy Michael Moynihan, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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 23324/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours being provided in each LHO area as of 31 August 2020 or the latest date available; the way in which the number compares to target in each LHO for the same time period; the number of persons on the waiting list for home support hours in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months, respectively - Michael Moynihan.

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

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, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model. Notwithstanding this, 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.


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. Please see table 1 below for a breakdown of activity levels

per CHO/LHO for the period. Data in the requested format (and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and more than 12 months respectively) is not currently collated nationally. This may be available locally; however it would take considerable resources to collect same.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations

Table 1 – Home Support Activity – August 2020 YTD

CHO	LHO	Target Hours YTD	Home Support Hours	No of Clients	WL August 2020
National Total		12,336,244	11,279,185	51,945	4,030
CHO 1	Total	1,192,531	1,072,182	4,060	61
	Cavan Monaghan	303,650	276,160	1,204	0
	Donegal	530,272	502,409	1,591	61
	Sligo Leitrim	358,609	293,613	1,265	0
CHO 2	Total	1,363,695	1,303,115	6,134	337
	Galway	664,283	680,748	3,173	87
	Mayo	446,539	399,097	1,979	228
	Roscommon	252,873	223,269	982	22
CHO 3	Total	1,026,156	928,314	4,327	559
	Clare	307,847	311,286	1,232	311
	Limerick	410,462	333,540	1,744	201
	North Tipperary East Limerick	307,847	283,487	1,351	47
CHO 4	Total	1,813,976	1,747,809	8,694	415
	Kerry	471,581	407,859	2,446	44
	North Cork	310,949	287,776	1,396	54
	North Lee	401,479	399,295	2,033	50
	South Lee	407,381	448,281	1,951	122
	West Cork	222,586	204,598	868	145
CHO 5	Total	1,350,488	1,199,538	5,616	820
	Carlow Kilkenny	346,834	302,786	1,464	0
	South Tipperary	273,218	225,887	1,206	0
	Waterford	263,614	232,777	1,312	189
	Wexford	466,822	438,087	1,634	631
CHO 6	Total	952,971	901,822	4,059	0
	Dublin South East	254,763	237,906	1,392	0
	Dun Laoghaire	331,936	352,659	1,467	0
	Wicklow	366,272	311,257	1,200	0
CHO 7	Total	1,441,538	1,297,395	6,794	1,341
	Dublin South City	273,891	262,219	1,627	361
	Dublin South West	360,384	354,826	1,899	413
	Dublin West	288,308	282,378	1,463	274
	Kildare West Wicklow	518,955	397,972	1,805	293
CHO 8	Total	1,189,264	1,088,736	5,259	434
	Laos Offaly	290,400	254,604	971	56
	Longford Westmeath	304,232	271,309	1,238	34
	Louth	276,574	243,671	1,749	75
	Meath	318,058	319,153	1,301	269
CHO 9	Total	2,005,625	1,740,274	7,002	63
	Dublin North	884,099	715,995	2,866	0
	Dublin North Central	703,718	539,961	2,127	0
	Dublin North West	417,808	484,319	2,009	63