



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Head of Older Persons Services,  
HSE Offices,  
Lacken,  
Dublin Road,  
Kilkenny.

Telephone 353 56 7784140

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Mr. Johnny Mythen T.D.,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 18555/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list for home support hours in County Wexford; the breakdown of length of wait time in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 18554/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 692 of 7 July 2020, if the home support waiting list review in County Wexford that was due to commence in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 in 2020 was conducted; if so, the outcomes of the review; if the review will be published; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Mythen,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have reviewed the matter and the following composite reply is the current position.*

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.

At present Wexford Home Support services are providing 53,436 hours per month to 1,687 clients. The waiting list for Home Support Services in the Wexford area is at present 607 waiting for new services and 212 waiting for increased provision.

The information with regards to length of time waiting is not routinely collected in the format requested as the Home Support service is based on individual clinical need and risk assessment.

There are significant staffing and recruitment challenges for both HSE and Private Providers and particularly since the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic. The HSE has carried out recruitment campaigns for Home Support Workers. Unfortunately it continues to prove extremely difficult to recruit the volume of staff required for the Wexford area. South East Community Healthcare Services for Older People is working to enhance the Home Support Service and is currently planning a further recruitment campaign.

During Quarter 3, 2020, a review of the Home Support waiting list commenced, unfortunately it was necessary to be put on hold due to the redeployment of the person to Covid priority services.

I trust this is of assistance. Should you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Murphy".

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**Barbara Murphy,**  
**Head of Older Persons Services,**  
**South East Community Healthcare**