



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,  
Disability Services/Community Operations,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369

Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
e-mail: [michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 21030/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 1 April 2021 or the latest date available; and the number currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; the number waiting 0-3, 3-6 , 6-12 and the number waiting more than 12 months in tabular form.*

#### **PQ 21031/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area as of 1 April 2021 or the latest date available; the number waiting 0-3, 3-6 , 6-12 and more than 12 months in tabular form.*

#### **HSE Response**

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.



Seirbhís Sláinte  
Níos Fearr  
á Forbairt

Building a  
Better Health  
Service

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2020. PA/Home Support data is collated a month in arrears, so Q1 data for 2021 will not be available until late May/early June 2021.

Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2020

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2020		2020
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,673</b>		<b>1,781,310</b>
CHO Area 1	228		128,050
CHO Area 2	471		324,017
CHO Area 3	459		335,308
CHO Area 4	474		143,951
CHO Area 5	383		164,506
CHO Area 6	12		29,028
CHO Area 7	104		108,971
CHO Area 8	263		174,195
CHO Area 9	279		373,285

Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2020

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2020		2020
<b>National Total</b>	<b>6,792</b>		<b>2,939,541</b>
CHO Area 1	721		330,502
CHO Area 2	1,087		210,684
CHO Area 3	486		201,776
CHO Area 4	612		241,932
CHO Area 5	840		327,558
CHO Area 6	545		351,540
CHO Area 7	812		355,122
CHO Area 8	862		511,666
CHO Area 9	827		408,761

### Waiting Lists

Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for Personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in excess of 376 people will require Home Support services in the

future and 291 people are listed as awaiting PA services. Please note that as the National Disability Databases are not mandatory it is quite possible there is an under reporting of the need.

### **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

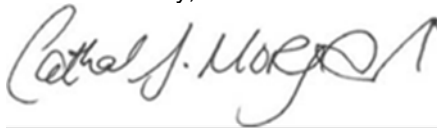
Prior to COVID-19, the HSE was committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2020 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority was continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support to approximately 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.67 million PA hours and 3.08 million Home Support hours.

In preparing for and responding to COVID-19 and to fully align with Public Health guidance as recommended via the NPHE, the HSE and its partner service providers put in place a range of measures, which included the prioritisation of vital Residential and Home Support/PA services whilst curtailing or closing certain services such as day services, respite services, and certain clinical & therapeutic supports.

The number of people in receipt of PA and Home Support services remained steady throughout the pandemic. The number of PA hours exceeded the NSP 2020 target by 6.7%, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly as a result of additional PA hours being provided in lieu of other services. Home Support Services were 4.6% below target at year end, mainly due to the complexity involved in the provision of services due to COVID-19.

In the 2021 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support Services to 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.71 million PA hours and over 3 million Home Support Hours. This includes the allocation of an additional 40,000 PA hours in accordance with the NSP 2021.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**