

20th December 2021

Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 62541/21:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting homecare hours; and the number of hours they are waiting for in County Cork by LHO”.

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

Within Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, the Home Support service is operating with 21% less staff post-Covid while delivering an average weekly service of 45,000 hours to almost 7,000 clients. The table below illustrates the number of older persons waitlisted for Home Support in County Cork at the end of November 2021, broken down by local health office (LHO):

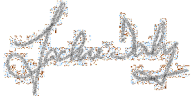
No. of Clients waitlisted for Home Support Service in Co. Cork as of 30th November 2021	South Lee	West Cork	North Lee	North Cork	Total
Number of <u>new</u> clients waiting on Home Support Service	156	54	57	68	335
Number of <u>existing</u> clients waiting on Home Support Service (clients waiting for additional hours)	84	55	30	27	196
Total number of Clients waiting on a Home Support Service (new service/additional hours).	240	109	87	95	531
Total number of hours waitlisted (new service/additional hours)	848.25	282.5	326.25	350.6	1807.6

A targeted campaign to recruit 300 Health Care Support Assistants for the Cork and Kerry area is currently underway to enhance our service provision. The HSE continues to work towards increasing Home Support provision; however, difficulties currently exist in relation to recruitment and retention of staff with certain areas experiencing increased pressures. This can lead to delays between the approval of funding and the delivery of home support hours.

Work is underway to address these challenges including the establishment of a Strategic Workforce Advisory Group to look in detail at issues of recruitment, retention, skills development, pay and conditions, and sustainable employment of home carers into the future.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Daly', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons