



**Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí**

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**Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations**

Services for Older People

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**3 February 2021**

**Deputy John Lahart, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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 3055/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours being provided in each LHO area as of 30 December 2020 or the latest date available; the way in which this compares to target in each LHO for the same time period; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for home support in each LHO area in tabular form; and the number waiting zero to three, three to six, six to 12 and more than 12 months.**

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 end of December 2020. As of this date, 17,554,880 home support hours were delivered nationally to 52,853 people. Also, as of this date, there were 2,418 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the data by LHO/CHO in respect of December 2020 YTD. In relation to the data you requested in respect of "*the number waiting zero to three, three to six, six to 12 and more than 12 months*", this data is currently not collated nationally and is therefore unavailable.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of people assessed and waiting on funding for home support in 2020 – this has been as a result of a number of factors including validation of waiting lists and availability of funding to address those waiting. Further funding to provide an additional 5m hours in 2021, as part of the Winter Plan 2020/2021, will enable the HSE to keep the number of clients assessed and waiting on funding to a minimum

in addition to the provision of packages of care to support reablement and those with complex care needs in order to avoid long-term care. This will amount to a service provision of approximately 24m hours in 2021.

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". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Services for Older People – Operations**

## Appendix 1 – Home Support Activity Data – December 2020 YTD – Preliminary Data

CHO	LHO	Target/EA YTD	Activity YTD	% Var YTD V Tgt/EA YTD	Clients in Receipt	Waiting List
<b>National Total</b>		<b>18,670,000</b>	<b>17,554,880</b>	<b>-6.0%</b>	<b>52,853</b>	<b>2,418</b>
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,791,320</b>	<b>1,682,740</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>	<b>4,133</b>	<b>0</b>
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	452,567	429,716	-5.0%	1,247	0
CHO 1	Donegal	798,648	784,739	-1.7%	1,564	0
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	540,105	468,285	-13.3%	1,322	0
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,053,320</b>	<b>2,039,074</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>100</b>
CHO 2	Galway	1,000,215	1,055,775	5.6%	3,297	6
CHO 2	Mayo	672,355	622,856	-7.4%	2,047	83
CHO 2	Roscommon	380,750	360,443	-5.3%	1,036	11
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,546,320</b>	<b>1,412,975</b>	<b>-8.6%</b>	<b>4,428</b>	<b>255</b>
CHO 3	Clare	463,896	481,441	3.8%	1,299	227
CHO 3	Limerick	618,528	510,181	-17.5%	1,767	28
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Li	463,896	421,354	-9.2%	1,362	0
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,823,200</b>	<b>2,721,569</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>8,787</b>	<b>3</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	767,011	673,527	-12.2%	2,466	3
CHO 4	North Cork	450,242	419,706	-6.8%	1,432	0
CHO 4	North Lee	581,327	571,257	-1.7%	2,045	0
CHO 4	South Lee	662,592	726,449	9.6%	1,943	0
CHO 4	West Cork	362,028	330,629	-8.7%	901	0
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,033,460</b>	<b>1,839,284</b>	<b>-9.5%</b>	<b>5,719</b>	<b>525</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	522,245	463,739	-11.2%	1,472	0
CHO 5	South Tipperary	411,376	357,086	-13.2%	1,226	0
CHO 5	Waterford	396,926	356,390	-10.2%	1,356	0
CHO 5	Wexford	702,913	662,068	-5.8%	1,665	525
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,436,780</b>	<b>1,413,823</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>0</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	384,102	377,879	-1.6%	1,272	0
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	500,455	564,222	12.7%	1,556	0
CHO 6	Wicklow	552,223	471,722	-14.6%	1,177	0
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,173,500</b>	<b>2,013,320</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>	<b>7,241</b>	<b>1,208</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	412,963	419,914	1.7%	1,747	353
CHO 7	Dublin South West	543,375	546,201	0.5%	2,057	302
CHO 7	Dublin West	434,701	443,259	2.0%	1,530	222
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	782,461	603,945	-22.8%	1,907	331
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,791,320</b>	<b>1,695,169</b>	<b>-5.4%</b>	<b>4,912</b>	<b>207</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	437,413	392,036	-10.4%	1,110	33
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	458,246	430,957	-6.0%	1,286	0
CHO 8	Louth	416,588	369,963	-11.2%	1,153	0
CHO 8	Meath	479,073	502,213	4.8%	1,363	174
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,020,780</b>	<b>2,736,926</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>	<b>7,248</b>	<b>120</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	1,331,590	1,123,749	-15.6%	2,903	36
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,059,907	845,987	-20.2%	2,239	22
CHO 9	Dublin North West	629,283	767,190	21.9%	2,106	62