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9 April 2021

Deputy David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 14510/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons allocated home help and homecare packages by county and or allocated as per each local health office; the amount of funding drawn down in each county for these packages in 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 14511/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for a home help and or homecare package; the average length of wait for these services respectively nationwide; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 14512/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for home help and or homecare packages; the average length of time waiting across each local health office; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 February 2021. As of this date, 3,390,468 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,458 people. Also, as of this date, there were 1,869 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. Data relating to *“the average length of time waiting across each local health office”* is not currently collated nationally.

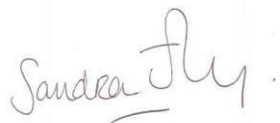
While this may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to source this information at a national level. Please see table 1 below for a breakdown of Home Support activity for February 2021 YTD per LHO/CHO. You will note on same that there is a data gap in LHO Sligo/Leitrim for February, which is attributable to recent administrative pressures experienced by the area. Their February data will be included with their March 2021 return to the central BIU data processing unit. Please also see Table 2 for a breakdown of Home Support funding for each of the years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of people assessed and waiting on funding for home support throughout 2020 and into 2021 – 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 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,



Sandra Tuohy,
Assistant National Director - Community Operations, Services
for Older People.

Table 1 – Home Support Service Provision February 2021 YTD

Home Support Service Provision 2021

Activity February 2021 YTD

Date: 25th March 2021

		Hours	Clients	Waiting List
CHO	LHO	February 2021 Activity YTD	February 2021 Clients	February 2021 Waiting List
National Total		3,034,024	51,458	1,869
CHO1	Cavan Monaghan	73,910	1,229	-
	Donegal	140,558	1,595	144
	Sligo Leitrim	40,284		
	Total	254,752	2,824	144
CHO2	Galway	178,608	3,296	2
	Mayo	104,651	2,052	50
	Roscommon	64,677	1,048	9
	Total	347,936	6,396	61
CHO3	Clare	80,894	1,331	222
	Limerick	86,981	1,710	22
	North Tipperary East Limerick	72,087	1,191	-
	Total	239,962	4,232	244
CHO4	Kerry	104,605	2,415	-
	North Cork	66,625	1,448	-
	North Lee	89,266	1,981	-
	South Lee	114,442	1,925	-
	West Cork	52,400	879	-
	Total	427,338	8,648	-
CHO5	Carlow Kilkenny	83,222	1,436	-
	South Tipperary	63,468	1,198	-
	Waterford	62,232	1,328	-
	Wexford	109,060	1,678	-
	Total	317,982	5,640	-
CHO6	Dublin South East	83,788	1,306	-
	Dun Laoghaire	114,723	1,656	-
	Wicklow	80,327	1,191	-
	Total	278,838	4,153	-
CHO7	Dublin South City	74,013	1,669	348
	Dublin South West	96,225	2,006	306
	Dublin West	84,281	1,568	241
	Kildare West Wicklow	104,992	1,949	365
	Total	359,511	7,192	1,260
CHO8	Laois Offaly	74,607	1,185	32
	Longford Westmeath	82,756	1,290	-
	Louth	58,772	1,183	-
	Meath	89,940	1,394	-
	Total	306,075	5,052	32
CHO9	Dublin North	206,850	2,966	67
	Dublin North Central	150,802	2,214	19
	Dublin North West	143,978	2,141	42
	Total	501,630	7,321	128

Table 2 – Home Support Funding 2018, 2019 & 2020

	Home Support Funding		
	Budget 2020	Budget 2019	Budget 2018
National Total	489,993,143	437,716,326	416,880,992