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**30 June 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 Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 24550/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare packages and intensive homecare packages delivered for each month in 2020 and to date in 2021; the target for monthly delivery by year-end 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 24551/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of home help hours delivered in each month of 2020 and in each month to date in 2021; the target for monthly delivery by year-end 2021; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

From 1 January 2018, home help hours and homecare packages were amalgamated into a single funded service; Home Support. 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.

As you may be aware, the HSE IT systems have been affected by a recent cyber-attack, and this has affected our electronic records, email services and data processing & collection systems. In light of this, the most recent completed data available represents the period to the end of March 2021. As of this date, 4,686,335 home support hours were delivered nationally to 54,122 people. Please see appendix below which includes Home Support activity and monthly targets to December 2021, and similar activity and targets for Intensive Home Support Packages for the period requested.

Additional funding provided, as part of the Winter Plan 2020/2021, will support a significant increase of service provision of 5m hours by year end and 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

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".

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

## Appendix 1

### Total Number of Home Support Hours Delivered 2020 - 2021 YTD

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL YTD	Full Year Target
Hours Delivered 2020	1,415,165	1,361,349	1,389,025	1,361,320	1,399,844	1,427,609	1,483,447	1,435,332	1,580,159	1,538,827	1,580,771	1,597,036	17,554,880	18,670,000
Target 2020	1,540,717	1,423,143	1,563,174	1,517,341	1,559,610	1,604,469	1,559,610	1,568,180	1,653,861	1,563,610	1,536,307	1,579,978	18,670,000	
Hours Delivered 2021	1,571,754	1,492,023	1,622,558										4,686,335	23,670,000
Target 2021	1,699,380	1,691,088	1,911,266	1,964,049	2,004,045	2,047,753	2,025,869	2,161,530	1,996,769	2,036,801	2,025,057	2,106,393	23,670,000	

\* data absence for April due to IT issues resulting from the recent cyber-attack

### Total Number of Intensive Homecare Packages Delivered 2020 - 2021 YTD

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL YTD	Full Year Target
IHCPs Delivered 2020	173	166	165	162	156	151	148	146	141	142	151	149	149	235
IHCPs Delivered 2021	149	139	140										140	235

\* data absence for April due to IT issues resulting from the recent cyber-attack