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

Services for Older People

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**30 June 2021**

**Deputy Cormac Devlin, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Devlin,

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 24567/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each CHO area who have received an assessment and are now waiting on home help packages for more than 3, 6, and 12 months and 1, 2 and 3 years as of 1 April 2021; 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 National Service Plan for 2021 provides for the following: -

- 23.67m home support hours to be delivered to 55,675 people by year end, inclusive of an additional 5m hours funded under the Winter Plan 2020/2021
- 230,000 hours to be delivered as part of the Home Support Pilot Scheme to commence in 2021 and
- 360,000 home support hours provided to 235 people under the Intensive Home Support Scheme

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.

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. Also, as of this date, there were 1,601 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. Please see table below showing breakdown of waiting list figures by CHO.

Please note that data requested (*for more than 3, 6, and 12 months and 1, 2 and 3 years*) is not currently collated nationally. Whilst this may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally.

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.

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



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

**Table 1 – Home Support Waiting List (waiting for funding for new or additional Home Support)**

Home Support Waiting List	
CHO	Mar-21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,601</b>
CHO1	131
CHO2	53
CHO3	241
CHO4	-
CHO5	-
CHO6	2
CHO7	1,076
CHO8	29
CHO9	69