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

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**30 June 2021**

**Deputy Mick Barry, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Barry,

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 25212/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the budget allocated to home help and homecare packages in each of the years 2015 to 2020; the funding allocated to direct HSE services, voluntary and non-profit organisations and private providers for these services for the same years; 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 2021 National Service Plan provides for;

- 24.26m home support hours to be delivered to 55,675 people inclusive of an additional 5m home support hours funded under the Winter Initiative 2021, and 230,000 hours relating to the rollout of the Home Support Pilot Scheme.
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

The development of this new service model grounded in the National Standards for Better Safer Healthcare and sufficiently flexible to meet the more complex needs of an aging population brings with it challenges of ensuring that all providers, including HSE directly provided services, are in a position to deliver a quality service and one in which the workforce is trained and competent to undertake the required duties.

The Sláintecare vision is to achieve a universal single-tier health and social care system where everyone has equal access to services based on need, and not ability to pay. Since its initial inception, following the publication of the Sláintecare Report in May 2017 and the subsequent approval of the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy in July 2018, significant additional funding has been provided to the HSE to further deliver essential home support services to those most in need in our communities.

Since 2015, there has been a 118% increase in funding provision for Home Support Services with funding in 2021 at circa. €666.5m. (Please note that these figures exclude any provision relating to the ongoing Public Health emergency). Please see Appendix below for a breakdown for each of the years requested. Please note that the HSE does not allocate a specific budget in respect of indirect service provision. This is due to the HSE operating a formal tender process, a feature of which is varying levels of pricing across all approved tendered providers and service is commissioned from external providers for new clients and increases in service provision for existing clients in accordance with the Tender Standard Operating Procedure, where HSE direct services are not available.

The increase in funding supports have provided for an increase in service delivery, together with the streamlining of home support services and the proposed pilot Home Support Scheme relating to preparation for the legislation and regulation of Home Support Services. The Department of Health is presently leading out on the development of a statutory Home Support Service which will consider the future design of both the funding and regulation systems for these essential services.

Yours sincerely



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

## Appendix – Home Support Funding 2015 to 2020

Home Support Funding	Budget 2021	Budget 2020	Budget 2019	Budget 2018	Budget 2017	Budget 2016	Budget 2015
National Total	€666.5m	€490m	€437.7m	€416.9m	€380.3m	€349m	€306m