



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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Services for Older People

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16th November 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: 52166/21

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 three, six and 12 months and one, two and three years as of 1 April 2021, in tabular form; 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 care needs by the HSE and having regard to available resources and competing demands for the service from those people with assessed needs. Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community.

The National Service Plan for 2021 provides for the following: -

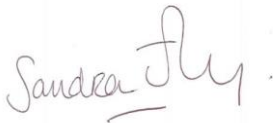
- 23.67m home support hours to be delivered to 55,675 people by year end, inclusive of an additional 5m hours funded under the Winter Plan 2020/2021
- 230,000 hours to be delivered as part of the Home Support Pilot Scheme to commence in 2021 and
- 360,000 home support hours provided to 235 people under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

Home Support services for older people are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's assessed needs.

Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of September 2021. As of this date, 15,061,610 home support hours were delivered nationally to 53,335 people. Also, as of this date, there were 393 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 4,933 people were approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the current Home Support waiting list both for those waiting for funding and for a carer to be assigned for the same period. In relation to your question regarding the length of time which those on the waiting list have been waiting, the HSE currently does not collate that information nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally.

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 – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List – 30th September 2021

WAITING LIST - SEPTEMBER 2021									
CHO	Funding			Carers			Aids & Equipment		
	New	Additional	Total	New	Additional	Total	New	Additional	Total
CHO 1	48	42	90	91	176	267	-	-	-
CHO 2	2	-	2	226	394	620	-	-	-
CHO 3	12	43	55	356	47	403	-	-	-
CHO 4	-	-	-	435	266	701	-	-	-
CHO 5	-	-	-	973	659	1,632	-	-	-
CHO 6	-	-	-	178	218	396	-	-	-
CHO 7	32	168	200	379	32	411	-	-	-
CHO 8	-	-	-	215	237	452	-	-	-
CHO 9	18	28	46	40	11	51	-	-	-
National Total	112	281	393	2,893	2,040	4,933	-	-	-