



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

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1st December 2021

**Deputy David Cullinane TD,
Dáil Éireann,
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: 56238/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons over and under 65 years of age on home support assessment waiting lists by CHO in each quarter since quarter 4 2018, in tabular form; the number of those waiting more than 12, 24 and 52 weeks, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 56239/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons over and under 65 years of age on home support waiting lists, that is, waiting on funding for home support, new and additional; the number waiting on a carer to be assigned, new and additional; the number waiting on equipment to be provided, new and additional by CHO in each quarter since quarter 4 2018, in tabular form; the number of those waiting more than 12, 24 and 52 weeks, respectively; 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 October 2021. As of this date, 16,748,157 home support hours were delivered nationally to 51,861 people. Also, as of this date, there were 310 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 4,825 people were approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. Please note that there are data gaps in Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim for October therefore CHO1 data is understated in this period.

Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the Home Support waiting list both for those waiting for funding and for a carer to be assigned from 2018 to 2021 YTD. 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.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of people assessed and waiting on funding for home support over the past number of years – this has been as a result of a number of factors including validation of waiting lists and availability of funding to address those waiting. As part of the ongoing validation process, the figures for those waiting for funding for new or additional Home Support in CHO7 have greatly reduced between 2020 and 2021.

Further funding to provide an additional 5m hours in 2021, as part of the Winter Plan 2020/2021, has further enabled 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,



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List – 2018 to 2021

Home Support Waiting List 2018 to 2021 - Trends in Funding & Carer Availability

Report Date: November 2021

	Month	Funding	Carers
2018	Jan-18	5,495	1,353
	Feb-18	6,172	1,326
	Mar-18	6,458	1,356
	Apr-18	6,104	1,205
	May-18	6,118	1,229
	Jun-18	5,893	1,422
	Jul-18	6,287	1,530
	Aug-18	6,285	1,656
	Sep-18	6,423	1,458
	Oct-18	6,317	1,634
	Nov-18	6,107	1,556
	Dec-18	6,120	1,618
2019	Jan-19	6,087	1,576
	Feb-19	6,048	1,528
	Mar-19	6,238	1,737
	Apr-19	6,310	1,669
	May-19	6,819	1,584
	Jun-19	7,217	1,538
	Jul-19	7,346	1,399
	Aug-19	7,255	1,375
	Sep-19	7,669	1,394
	Oct-19	7,791	1,415
	Nov-19	7,619	1,462
	Dec-19	7,819	1,539
2020	Jan-20	7,907	1,342
	Feb-20	7,823	1,544
	Mar-20	7,295	1,375
	Apr-20	6,784	1,253
	May-20	6,130	1,197
	Jun-20	5,689	1,389
	Jul-20	4,555	1,718
	Aug-20	4,007	1,741
	Sep-20	2,964	2,226
	Oct-20	2,514	2,498
	Nov-20	2,507	2,311
	Dec-20	2,418	2,507
2021	Jan-21	2,144	2,836
	Feb-21	1,869	3,084
	Mar-21	1,601	3,014
	Apr-21	1,245	3,327
	May-21	1,169	3,265
	Jun-21	1,113	3,545
	Jul-21	1,206	4,389
	Aug-21	491	4,534
	Sep-21	414	4,933
	Oct-21	310	4,825
	Nov-21		
	Dec-21		

