



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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14th December 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: 58949/21

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of homecare hours applied for by CHO; the total number granted in tabular form over each of the past five 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.

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.

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

Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of October 2021. As of this date, 16,877,254 home support hours were delivered nationally to circa 54,000 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. It should be noted that despite capacity challenges experienced nationwide within Home Support services, overall service delivery has increased by 17% based on activity levels for the same period last year. Please see Appendix below for a breakdown of service provision by CHO since 2017.

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 blue ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Service Provision 2017 to 2021 (October YTD)

Home Support Service Provision

2017 to 2021

CHO	2021		2020		2019		2018		2017 **			
	Target	Activity *	Target	Activity	Target	Activity	Target	Activity	HH Target	HH Activity	HCP Target	HCP Activity
CHO1	2,346,320	1,636,536	1,791,320	1,682,041	1,720,000	1,667,144	1,800,000	1,694,036	1,435,000	1,442,265	1,331	1,378
CHO2	2,552,320	1,937,240	2,053,320	2,039,074	1,982,000	1,847,400	1,930,000	1,787,709	1,294,000	1,353,387	1,254	1,912
CHO3	1,918,520	1,403,376	1,546,320	1,412,975	1,475,000	1,504,922	1,439,000	1,456,803	933,000	922,119	1,107	1,149
CHO4	3,562,200	2,371,337	2,823,200	2,721,569	2,760,000	2,730,758	2,700,000	2,707,162	1,983,000	1,995,759	1,517	1,557
CHO5	2,696,460	1,576,917	2,033,460	1,839,284	1,950,000	1,946,169	1,880,000	1,927,217	1,304,000	1,146,958	1,094	1,242
CHO6	1,988,780	1,576,473	1,436,780	1,413,823	1,350,000	1,364,889	1,135,000	1,301,981	455,000	337,968	1,725	2,221
CHO7	2,900,500	1,920,882	2,173,500	2,013,320	2,130,000	2,024,615	1,915,000	1,880,560	734,000	638,601	2,171	3,060
CHO8	2,420,320	1,704,599	1,791,320	1,695,169	1,720,000	1,717,794	1,760,000	1,616,808	1,260,000	1,249,355	2,373	2,681
CHO9	3,284,580	2,749,893	3,020,780	2,736,927	2,813,000	2,680,675	2,535,000	2,758,176	1,172,000	1,299,527	4,178	4,607
National	23,670,000	16,877,254	18,670,000	17,554,182	17,900,000	17,484,366	17,094,000	17,130,453	10,570,000	10,385,938	16,750	19,807

* Activity represented in 2021 is preliminary activity as at end of October 2021

** HH & HCP amalgamated to form Home Support on 1 January 2018