



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

2nd December 2021

PQ ref 59009/21

To ask the Minister for Health the average wait time for approval of a homecare application; the level of delayed discharges from Letterkenny University Hospital while waiting on a homecare package or community bed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The average wait time for approval of a homecare package for clients awaiting discharge from Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH) is 24 - 48 hrs. The delivery of the approved homecare service is dependent on carers being available in a client's area at the time of discharge; in some cases, it may take 1 - 14 days for a carer to become available. At present, there is one patient on the delayed discharge list awaiting a home care package and the Homecare Service is actively seeking an appropriate and available carer to deliver the service to this client.

The average wait time for patients awaiting discharge to community hospitals is 1- 7 days; this is dependent on availability of beds in the client's local area. The number of delayed discharges awaiting community hospital beds on 30/11/2021 was three patients, two of whom were to be discharged yesterday as beds had become available in their local community hospitals; thus leaving one patient at LUH awaiting discharge to a community hospital at end of 30/11/2021.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Collum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Martin Collum,
General Manager
Services for Older Persons.
CHO 1.