



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

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Services for Older People

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20th October 2021

Deputy John Lahart, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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 48462/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours currently being provided in each LHO area as of 30 September 2021 or the latest date available; the way that it compares to target in each LHO for the same time period; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for home support hours in each LHO area in tabular form; and the number waiting 0 to 3 months, 3 to 6 months, 6 to 12 months and more than 12 months.

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 number of people waiting for funding for home support services, reflect a point in time. Those people who are on the waiting list have been assessed and are reviewed, as funding becomes available, to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resources, having regard to the client's assessed needs and current Public Health advice.

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 August 2021. As of this date, 13,218,094 home support hours were delivered nationally to 53,905 people. Also, as of this date, there were 478 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. Data relating to "*the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus*" is not currently collated nationally. While this may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to source this information at a national level. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of hours delivered August 2021 YTD per LHO/CHO.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of people assessed and waiting on funding for home support throughout 2020 and into 2021 – this has been as a result of a number of factors including validation of waiting lists and availability of funding to address those waiting. Further funding to provide an additional 5m hours in 2021, as part of the Winter Plan 2020/2021, will enable 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
Services for Older People – Operations

Appendix 1

*As a result of the recent cyber-attack on the HSE's IT systems, data gathering has been most affected across multiple departments both locally and nationally. For this reason, the data quoted on this response is subject to change and is preliminary in nature. The HSE continues to work through these issues and appreciates your patience and cooperation with same.

Home Support Waiting List 2021

Report Date: As at August 2021

		HOME SUPPORT HOURS 2021			CLIENTS IN RECEIPT	WAITING LIST YTD
CHO	LHO	Target Hours 2021 YTD	Total Hours 2021 YTD	% Variance	Total No 2021 YTD	Total
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	380,687	330,640	-13.1%	1,298	0
CHO 1	Donegal	681,484	581,698	-14.6%	1,700	83
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	460,870	373,871	-18.9%	1,350	0
CHO 1	Total	1,523,041	1,286,208	-15.6%	4,348	83
CHO 2	Galway	811,403	800,314	-1.4%	3,482	0
CHO 2	Mayo	545,433	450,396	-17.4%	2,137	0
CHO 2	Roscommon	308,875	280,756	-9.1%	1,114	1
CHO 2	Total	1,665,711	1,531,466	-8.1%	6,733	1
CHO 3	Clare	375,519	382,828	1.9%	1,425	42
CHO 3	Limerick	500,694	377,282	-24.6%	1,783	23
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	375,519	324,304	-13.6%	1,311	0
CHO 3	Total	1,251,732	1,084,414	-13.4%	4,519	65
CHO 4	Kerry	655,552	479,565	-26.8%	2,505	0
CHO 4	North Cork	384,592	272,630	-29.1%	1,522	0
CHO 4	North Lee	496,559	360,652	-27.4%	2,049	0
CHO 4	South Lee	566,310	471,499	-16.7%	1,960	0
CHO 4	West Cork	309,421	214,939	-30.5%	901	0
CHO 4	Total	2,412,434	1,799,284	-25.4%	8,936	0
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	448,687	330,028	-26.4%	1,548	0
CHO 5	South Tipperary	353,450	229,854	-35.0%	1,337	0
CHO 5	Waterford	341,025	260,581	-23.6%	1,469	0
CHO 5	Wexford	603,907	432,861	-28.3%	1,674	0
CHO 5	Total	1,747,069	1,253,324	-28.3%	6,028	0
CHO 6	Dublin South East	345,916	378,484	9.4%	1,441	0
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	450,707	511,705	13.5%	1,606	0
CHO 6	Wicklow	497,328	338,793	-31.9%	1,232	0
CHO 6	Total	1,293,951	1,228,983	-5.0%	4,278	0
CHO 7	Dublin South City	356,503	307,344	-13.8%	1,496	21
CHO 7	Dublin South West	469,084	422,193	-10.0%	1,647	98
CHO 7	Dublin West	375,267	341,819	-8.9%	1,256	53
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	675,480	450,672	-33.3%	1,600	78
CHO 7	Total	1,876,334	1,522,028	-18.9%	5,999	250
CHO 8	Laos Offaly	381,890	345,583	-9.5%	1,364	24
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	400,077	354,355	-11.4%	1,385	0
CHO 8	Louth	363,705	265,934	-26.9%	1,357	0
CHO 8	Meath	418,262	376,601	-10.0%	1,505	0
CHO 8	Total	1,563,934	1,342,473	-14.2%	5,611	24
CHO 9	Dublin North	956,901	863,252	-9.8%	3,040	20
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	761,662	659,741	-13.4%	2,242	27
CHO 9	Dublin North West	452,211	646,922	43.1%	2,171	8
CHO 9	Total	2,170,774	2,169,914	0.0%	7,453	55
National Total		15,504,980	13,218,095	-14.7%	53,905	478