



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

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Disability Services/Community Operations,
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20th October 2021

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive 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 48475/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 30 September 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus, respectively in tabular form

PQ 48476/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area as of 30 September 2021 or the latest date available; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting 0 to 3, 3 to 6, 6 to 12 and 12 months plus, respectively in tabular form.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

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COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Prior to COVID-19, the HSE was committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2020 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority was continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support to approximately 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.67 million PA hours and 3.08 million Home Support hours.

In preparing for and responding to COVID-19 and to fully align with Public Health guidance as recommended via the NPHE, the HSE and its partner service providers put in place a range of measures, which included the prioritisation of vital Residential and Home Support/PA services whilst curtailing or closing certain services such as day services, respite services, and certain clinical & therapeutic supports.

The number of people in receipt of PA and Home Support services remained steady throughout the pandemic. The number of PA hours exceeded the NSP 2020 target by 6.7%, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly as a result of additional PA hours being provided in lieu of other services. Home Support Services were 4.6% below target at year end, mainly due to the complexity involved in the provision of services due to COVID-19.

Activity Data for 2021

In the 2021 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support Services to 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.71 million PA hours and over 3 million Home Support Hours. This includes the allocation of an additional 40,000 PA hours in accordance with the NSP 2021.

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in Quarter 1, 2021.

Please note that April 2021 is the latest available data. The return and reporting of data for subsequent months is affected by ongoing IT issues resulting from the cyber-attack on the HSE in May.

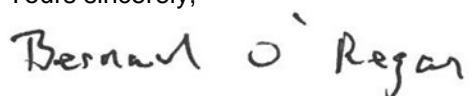
Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 1, 2021

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	Q1 - 2021	Q1 - 2021
National Total	2,457	419,753
CHO Area 1	235	30,972
CHO Area 2	480	82,024
CHO Area 3	464	83,358
CHO Area 4	289	35,490
CHO Area 5	367	37,411
CHO Area 6	21	7,102
CHO Area 7	100	21,458
CHO Area 8	278	44,874
CHO Area 9	223	77,066

Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 1, 2021

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	Q1 - 2021	Q1 - 2021
National Total	6,636	709,879
CHO Area 1	646	84,247
CHO Area 2	1,077	58,709
CHO Area 3	465	52,938
CHO Area 4	626	63,376
CHO Area 5	819	79,988
CHO Area 6	560	87,157
CHO Area 7	766	83,497
CHO Area 8	1,088	133,397
CHO Area 9	589	66,570

Yours sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations



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