



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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20th October 2021

Deputy John Lahart,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: john.lahart@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ 48567/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours for persons with disabilities that were provided in each local health office area in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and the projected out turn for 2021.

PQ 48568/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of personal assistance hours for persons with disabilities that were provided in each local health office area in 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and the projected out turn for 2021.

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.

Table 1 below provides details of the number of Home Support hours delivered to people with a disability in in 2019, 2020 and end of Q1 2021.

	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2019	2020	End of Q1 2021
National Total	3,035,882	2,939,541	709,879
CHO Area 1	311,523	330,502	84,247
CHO Area 2	178,936	210,684	58,709
CHO Area 3	198,655	201,776	52,938
CHO Area 4	242,329	241,932	63,376
CHO Area 5	352,733	327,558	79,988
CHO Area 6	380,047	351,540	87,157
CHO Area 7	427,908	355,122	83,497
CHO Area 8	523,334	511,666	133,397
CHO Area 9	420,417	408,761	66,570

Table 2 below provides details of the number of PA hours of service delivered to people with a disability in 2019, 2020 and end of Q1 2021.

	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2019	2020	End of Q1 2021
National Total	1,652,030	1,781,310	419,753
CHO Area 1	140,537	128,050	30,972
CHO Area 2	306,516	324,017	82,024
CHO Area 3	334,386	335,308	83,358
CHO Area 4	128,786	143,951	35,490
CHO Area 5	162,204	164,506	37,411
CHO Area 6	21,145	29,028	7,102
CHO Area 7	58,126	108,971	21,458
CHO Area 8	189,545	174,195	44,874
CHO Area 9	310,784	373,285	77,066

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 NPHET, 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.

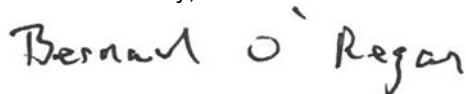
Waiting Lists

No additional funding had been provided for these services to the HSE since 2008 and as a result waiting lists are not maintained as a matter of course. Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for Personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in excess of 376 people will require Home Support services in the future and 291 people are listed as awaiting PA services. Please note that as the National Disability Databases are not mandatory it is quite possible there is an under reporting of the need

Yours sincerely,



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



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

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Better Health
Service