



**Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí**

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**Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations**

Services for Older People

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**04 November 2021**

**Deputy Róisín Shorthall TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**Dear Deputy Shorthall,**

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: 51472/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for homecare packages; the number of persons experiencing delayed discharge from hospital due to a delay accessing home care; and the waiting lists for home care packages by CHO and LHO, in tabular form.**

**PQ: 51473/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for assessment for home care packages by CHO, age, category and time waiting, in tabular form.**

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 care needs by the HSE and having regard to available resources and competing demands for the service from those people with assessed needs. Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community.

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

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.

Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of September 2021. As of this date, 15,061,610 home support hours were delivered nationally to 53,335 people. Also, as of this date, there were 393 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 4,933 people were approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the current Home Support waiting list both for those waiting for funding and for a carer to be assigned for the same period.

In relation to Delayed Discharges with specific regard for those who are waiting to return home with Home Support, as the latest report date available, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the number presently stands at 105 nationally. Please note this figure also includes those waiting from other care groups such as disability.

Data in relation to the number of people awaiting “assessment” for Home Support is not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally. However in general, following receipt of an application for Home Support, the local Home Support Office within the CHO will arrange an assessment of the applicant to determine the person’s level of need for Home Support services. This assessment is carried out using an assessment tool, either an InterRAI single assessment or a Common Summary Assessment Report (CSARs). Once an assessment is completed, home support approved and funding available, the person will commence their service subject to carer availability within the client’s catchment area. If funding is not available or if there are carer capacity issues present, the person is then placed on the waiting list until such time as either funding or a carer becomes available, having regard for the priority of the individual client, as indicated by their care needs assessment.

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,



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Sandra Tuohy,  
Assistant National Director - Community Operations,  
Services for Older People.

## Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List – September 2021

		WAITING LIST - SEPTEMBER 2021						
		Funding			Carers			
CHO	LHO	New	Addition	Total	New	Addition	Total	
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	-	-	-	49	141	190	
CHO 1	Donegal	48	42	90	16	4	20	
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	-	-	-	26	31	57	
CHO 1	<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>267</b>	
CHO 2	Galway	-	-	-	57	156	213	
CHO 2	Mayo	-	-	-	142	148	290	
CHO 2	Roscommon	2	-	2	27	90	117	
CHO 2	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>620</b>	
CHO 3	Clare	-	39	39	221	-	221	
CHO 3	Limerick	12	4	16	59	30	89	
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	-	-	-	76	17	93	
CHO 3	<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>403</b>	
CHO 4	Kerry	-	-	-	113	60	173	
CHO 4	North Cork	-	-	-	66	27	93	
CHO 4	North Lee	-	-	-	47	53	100	
CHO 4	South Lee	-	-	-	138	73	211	
CHO 4	West Cork	-	-	-	71	53	124	
CHO 4	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>701</b>	
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	-	-	-	68	88	156	
CHO 5	South Tipperary	-	-	-	62	102	164	
CHO 5	Waterford	-	-	-	162	233	395	
CHO 5	Wexford	-	-	-	681	236	917	
CHO 5	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>1,632</b>	
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-	41	63	104	
CHO 6	Wicklow	-	-	-	137	155	292	
CHO 6	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>396</b>	
CHO 7	Dublin South City	12	-	12	80	3	83	
CHO 7	Dublin South West	12	73	85	125	-	125	
CHO 7	Dublin West	8	39	47	129	29	158	
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	-	56	56	45	-	45	
CHO 7	<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>411</b>	
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	-	-	-	-	-	-	
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	-	-	-	22	98	120	
CHO 8	Louth	-	-	-	28	25	53	
CHO 8	Meath	-	-	-	165	114	279	
CHO 8	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>452</b>	
CHO 9	Dublin North	4	7	11	40	11	51	
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	11	17	28	-	-	-	
CHO 9	Dublin North West	3	4	7	-	-	-	
CHO 9	<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>	
<b>National Total</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>2,893</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>4,933</b>	