



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta – Oibríochtaí

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28th September 2021

Deputy Verona Murphy, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 44151/21

To ask the Minister for Health the immediate and urgent measures being taken to address the now critical deficit in the delivery of homecare hours to persons approved for care packages; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**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.*

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.

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.

The National Service Plan for 2021 provides for the following: -

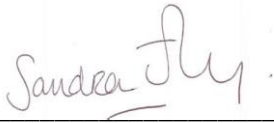
- 23.67m home support hours to be delivered to 55,675 people by year end, inclusive of an additional 5m hours funded under the Winter Plan 2020/2021
- 230,000 hours to be delivered as part of the Home Support Pilot Scheme to commence in 2021 and
- 360,000 home support hours provided to 235 people under 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. Please see appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the current waiting list data by CHO. This breakdown includes data in relation to those who are waiting for funding for new and/or additional home support.

While the HSE is aware that there are capacity issues across both direct and indirect provision, it continues to advertise on an ongoing basis for Health Care Assistants (HCSAs) and recruits as many suitable candidates, where possible. The HSE conducts its recruitment through a variety of channels both at local level and through the shared service offices of HBS. Due to the nature of Healthcare Support Assistants, this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going continually across the HSE to ensure availability of carers. Approved Home Support Providers also continue to recruit home support workers. Efforts are ongoing to meet the demand for home support services.

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 – Home Support Waiting List – August 2021 YTD

Home Support Waiting List Analysis

Report Month: August 2021

| CHO | LHO | Aug-21 | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Total | New | Additional |
| National Total | | 478 | 171 | 307 |
| CHO 1 | Cavan Monaghan | - | - | - |
| | Donegal | 83 | 56 | 27 |
| | Sligo Leitrim | - | - | - |
| | CHO 1 | 83 | 56 | 27 |
| CHO 2 | Galway | - | - | - |
| | Mayo | - | - | - |
| | Roscommon | 1 | 1 | - |
| | CHO 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| CHO 3 | Clare | 42 | - | 42 |
| | Limerick | 23 | 12 | 11 |
| | North Tipperary East Limerick | - | - | - |
| | CHO 3 | 65 | 12 | 53 |
| CHO 4 | Kerry | - | - | - |
| | North Cork | - | - | - |
| | North Lee | - | - | - |
| | South Lee | - | - | - |
| | West Cork | - | - | - |
| | CHO 4 | - | - | - |
| CHO 5 | Carlow Kilkenny | - | - | - |
| | South Tipperary | - | - | - |
| | Waterford | - | - | - |
| | Wexford | - | - | - |
| | CHO 5 | - | - | - |
| CHO 6 | Dublin South East | - | - | - |
| | Dun Laoghaire | - | - | - |
| | Wicklow | - | - | - |
| | CHO 6 | - | - | - |
| CHO 7 | Dublin South City | 21 | 10 | 11 |
| | Dublin South West | 98 | 20 | 78 |
| | Dublin West | 53 | 14 | 39 |
| | Kildare West Wicklow | 78 | 22 | 56 |
| | CHO 7 | 250 | 66 | 184 |
| CHO 8 | Laois Offaly | 24 | 10 | 14 |
| | Longford Westmeath | - | - | - |
| | Louth | - | - | - |
| | Meath | - | - | - |
| | CHO 8 | 24 | 10 | 14 |
| CHO 9 | Dublin North | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| | Dublin North Central | 27 | 12 | 15 |
| | Dublin North West | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| | CHO 9 | 55 | 26 | 29 |