



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta  
Tel: 087 345 5593  
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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations  
Services for Older People  
Tel: 087 345 5593  
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12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne, TD**  
**Dáil Eireann,**  
**Leinster House,**  
**Kildare Street,**  
**Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 46255/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of hours of the additional €5 million allocated for home support hours as committed to in the National Service Plan 2021 delivered to date.**

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 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

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

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.

In relation to the additional five million Home Support hours allocated as part of NSP 2021 under Winter Plan, as at the end of August, 9,256 clients have benefitted from a home support service under this initiative and the full year value (FYV) of all hours allocated August YTD is 2,236,060.

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.



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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

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**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Services for Older People – Operations**