



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
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11th October 2021

Deputy Thomas Pringle
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: thomas.pringle@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Pringle,

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 46355/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications for the home support grant which were approved in counties Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo and Mayo in the period 2011 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE provides services including home support services, for individuals with disabilities from childhood to adulthood either directly or indirectly by non-statutory service providers. The Home Support service provides domestic and or personal care inputs at regular intervals on a weekly basis. Temporary relief is offered to the carer by providing a trained reliable care attendant to look after the needs of the person with the disability. Home supports can be provided through a dedicated home support service or through the generic home help service. Home supports can be an alternative to residential care, where support to individuals in daily living can avoid the need for full time residential services.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individual's 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, the Home Support service is discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

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 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 over 3 million Home Support Hours.

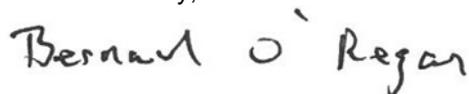
The following table provide details of the number of hours of service delivered from 2014 to end Quarter 1, 2021 in Quarter 1, 2021. Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo are in CHO Area 1, while Mayo forms part of CHO Area 2.

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.

Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability (2014-2021 (Q1))

Number of Hours of Home Support Delivered								
CHO	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021(Q1)
National Total	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,927,647	3,138,939	3,035,882	2,939,541	709,879
CHO 1	338,861	317,390	312,712	310,745	320,395	311,523	330,502	84,247
CHO 2	182,672	158,855	176,004	191,898	191,513	178,936	210,684	58,709
CHO 3	145,308	108,120	129,034	149,587	159,977	198,655	201,776	52,938
CHO 4	189,593	205,190	218,530	211,738	206,306	242,329	241,932	63,376
CHO 5	224,545	287,754	378,308	269,337	483,954	352,733	327,558	79,988
CHO 6	306,907	307,224	312,939	363,270	363,986	380,047	351,540	87,157
CHO 7	367,488	401,062	399,659	560,348	478,543	427,908	355,122	83,497
CHO 8	437,256	547,751	574,276	457,426	467,397	523,334	511,666	133,397
CHO 9	422,337	444,223	427,452	413,299	466,868	420,417	408,761	66,570

Yours sincerely,



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