



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
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11th October 2021

Deputy Violet Anne Wynne,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: violetanne.wynne@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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 46501/21

To ask the Minister for Health the amount that has been spent on personal assistance services by CHO area in each of the years 2016 to 2020, in tabular form.

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.

The following table provides details of the funding for Personal Assistance and Home Support provided to people with people with a disability from 2016 to end of 2020 inclusive.

Service area	2016 Funding €000	2017 Funding €000	2018 Funding €000	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2020 funding %
PA & Home Support	€72.7m	€77.1m	80,957	84,909	94,885	5% of total

Unfortunately, it is not possible to separate the PA & Home Support funding as these are allocated on a combined basis. In addition, the funding information provided for 2016 and 2017 is an approximation as we didn't have this level of detail nationally until 2018, where the figures tied in with the Estimates Process.

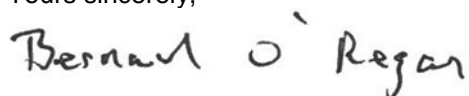
Prior to COVID-19, the HSE was committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2020 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority was continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support to approximately 10,000 people with 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 NPHE, 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.

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 1.74 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.

Yours sincerely,



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