

1st March 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 9544/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons availing of homecare hours; and the number of hours assigned in CHO4 by LHO in 2021.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Home Support service is a core service for older people and is highly valued by service users, their families and by the HSE. Delivery of a high-quality, consistent Home Support service is a key priority for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, focusing on keeping people well in their homes and communities for as long as possible. We continue to work towards increasing Home Support provision; however, difficulties currently exist in relation to recruitment and retention of staff with certain areas experiencing increased pressures.

The tables below illustrate the average monthly number of persons availing of a Home Support service in CHO 4 and the number of hours delivered in CHO 4 in 2021, broken down by local health office (LHO):

Table 1: Number of persons availing of Home Support Hours in 2021:

Local Health Office:	South Lee	West Cork	North Lee	North Cork	Kerry	<u>CHO Total</u>
Average monthly number of persons availing of Home Support Service in 2021:	1989	896	2031	1504	2473	8891

Table 2: Number of Home Support hours delivered in 2021:

Local Health Office	South Lee	West Cork	North Lee	North Cork	Kerry	<u>CHO Total</u>
Number of Home Support hours delivered in 2021:	763630.1	341055	572520.4	432852.1	639016.0	2749073.9

A recruitment campaign was recently undertaken in the Cork Kerry Community Healthcare region to secure an additional 300 Health Care Support Assistants in order to increase our service provision. Interviews will take place in the coming weeks.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eileen O'Leary', written in a cursive style.

Eileen O'Leary
Acting Head of Service for Older Persons