

1st March 2022

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

PQ ref 9545/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting homecare hours; and the number of hours they are waiting for 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.

Significant progress has been achieved in reducing Home Support waiting lists for funding approval (for new or additional service) through a combination of waiting list validation and increased funding. However, there can be delays between the approval of funding and the actual delivery of home support hours, primarily due to staff capacity issues. The HSE continues to advertise on an ongoing basis for Health Care Assistants and to recruit as many suitable candidates as possible. The HSE conducts its recruitment through a variety of channels both locally and nationally. Due to the nature of Healthcare Support Assistant posts, this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is ongoing across the CHO 4 region. Approved Home Support Providers also continue to recruit home support workers.

The tables below illustrate the number of persons awaiting Home Support hours within CHO 4 in 2021 and the indicative number of hours they are waiting for, broken down by local health office (LHO):

SOUTH LEE: Wait List 2021	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Number of existing clients on waiting list (clients waiting for additional hours)	88	80	69	66	56	68	69	87	73	73	84	95
Number of new clients on waiting list	161	137	147	128	88	113	95	133	138	131	156	154
Total number of clients waiting for a Home Support service	249	217	216	194	144	181	164	220	211	204	240	249
Total number of indicative hours required to provide a service (on the last day of the reporting month)	920.75	785	797.5	671	458.5	592.75	526	765.5	728.75	720.5	848.25	946

WEST CORK: Wait List 2021	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Number of existing clients on waiting list (clients waiting for additional hours)	64	65	59	70	57	60	48	57	53	50	55	48
Number of new clients on waiting list	79	77	77	85	69	76	60	58	71	62	54	66
Total number of clients waiting for a Home Support service	143	142	136	155	126	136	108	115	124	112	109	114
Total number of indicative hours required to provide a service (on the last day of the reporting month)	435.5	427.75	402.25	445.75	364	362.5	283	334.5	361.5	268.5	282.5	296.25

NORTH LEE: Wait List 2021	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Number of existing clients on waiting list (clients waiting for additional hours)	48	26	29	39	27	36	43	50	53	40	30	46
Number of new clients on waiting list	95	65	51	54	25	46	64	33	47	41	57	74
Total number of clients waiting for a Home Support service	143	91	80	93	52	82	107	83	100	81	87	120
Total number of indicative hours required to provide a service (on the last day of the reporting month)	365.75	245.25	244.75	265.75	158.5	263	450	310.5	361.5	304.27	326.25	399.25

NORTH CORK: Wait List 2021	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Number of existing clients on waiting list (clients waiting for additional hours)	34	28	23	21	21	33	26	33	27	21	27	32
Number of new clients on waiting list	67	65	61	47	43	55	66	67	65	74	68	73
Total number of clients waiting for a Home Support service	101	93	84	68	64	88	92	100	92	96	95	105
Total number of indicative hours required to provide a service (on the last day of the reporting month)	302.5	234	214.75	196.5	132	216.75	301.25	276	301.75	270	350.6	305.2

KERRY: WAIT LIST 2021	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Number of existing clients on waiting list (clients waiting for additional hours)	17	22	47	52	71	71	85	104	113	106	128	139
Number of new clients on waiting list	69	69	16	17	32	37	36	53	60	52	52	69
Total number of clients waiting for a Home Support service	86	91	63	69	103	108	121	157	173	158	180	208
Total number of indicative hours required to provide a service (on the last day of the reporting month)	225.25	235	201.25	234.25	260	355.75	373.75	483.25	518.85	468.85	577.35	634.35

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare recently ran a substantial Health Care Support Assistant recruitment campaign and interviews for these posts are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. In addition, approved home support providers continue to recruit home support workers.



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