



02 February 2022

**Deputy Patrick Costello TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Costello,

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 63156/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare hours provided by his Department; and the breakdown of the total provided directly by the HSE, private and voluntary providers, respectively.

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.

NSP 2022 provides for the following: -

- Rollover of the 2021 target levels of service into 2022, inclusive of the additional 5m hours funded in 2021 to 23.67m hours nationally
- 360,000 hours provided via Intensive Home Care Packages
- 230,000 hours associated with the roll-out of the pilot Statutory Home Support Scheme, which commenced in late 2021

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 December 2021. As of this date, 20,463,216 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 55,043 people, with 12.9m/63% of hours being delivered by private and voluntary providers. 21,164 new Home Support clients also benefitted from a Home Support service during 2021. Also, as of this date, there were 474 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 5,322 people were assessed and approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of hours delivered as at end of December 2021.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Sandra Tuohy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People