



02 February 2022

**Deputy Ivana Bacik TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Bacik,

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 63293/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in County Dublin that have been assessed for delivery of home support hours and are waiting for a carer to become available in excess of one, three and six months and one year in tabular form.

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, while 21,164 new Home Support clients have benefitted from the service. Also, as of this date, there were 474 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 5,322 people were approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. It should be noted that despite capacity challenges experienced nationwide within Home Support services, overall service delivery has increased by 14% based on activity levels for the same period last year.

Data requested in the format of *"in excess of one, three and six months and one year"*, is not currently collated nationally. While this may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally. Given that the county of Dublin is spread across a number of CHOs, please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the Home Support waiting list as at end of December 2021, in the relevant areas.

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 cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy". The signature is written in a light purple or grey ink on a white background.

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List in County Dublin (CHOs 6,7,9)

Home Support Waiting List 2021

Report Date: December 2021

		WAITING LIST - DECEMBER 2021					
		Funding			Carers		
CHO	LHO	New	Addition	Total	New	Addition	Total
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-	46	86	132
CHO 6	Wicklow	-	-	-	13	18	31
CHO 6	Total	-	-	-	59	104	163
CHO 7	Dublin South City	4	43	47	129	1	130
CHO 7	Dublin South West	-	107	107	274	-	274
CHO 7	Dublin West	-	48	48	169	32	201
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	-	80	80	113	-	113
CHO 7	Total	4	278	282	685	33	718
CHO 9	Dublin North	6	7	13	57	17	74
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	12	17	29	-	-	-
CHO 9	Dublin North West	15	8	23	-	-	-
CHO 9	Total	33	32	65	57	17	74