



**02 February 2022**

**Deputy John Brady TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**Dear Deputy Brady,**

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 63478/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of applications received for homecare support in 2019, 2020 and 2021, by county in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter;**

**PQ 63479/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have been granted homecare support in 2021 who are still waiting on their care packages to be fulfilled by a carer and home support agency by county and waiting timeframe in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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.

Please note that data requested for the wait time is not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally. Please see appendices below for a breakdown of data requested.

With regards to the Home Support waiting list, the HSE is aware that there are increasing capacity issues across both direct and indirect service provision. The HSE continues to advertise on an ongoing basis for Health Care Assistants (HCSAs) and recruits as many suitable candidates, where possible. The HSE conducts its recruitment through a variety of channels both at local level and through the shared service offices of HBS. Due to the nature of Healthcare Support Assistants, this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going continually across the HSE in an effort to ensure availability of carers. Approved Home Support Providers also continue to recruit home support workers. Efforts are ongoing to meet the demand for home support services.

While there are sometimes delays between the approval of funding and the availability of carers to commence delivery of home support hours in certain regions, significant work is underway to address these challenges. This includes work within the Department of Health to establish a Strategic Workforce Advisory Group to include key stakeholders including the HSE to look in detail at issues of recruitment, retention, skills development, pay and conditions, and sustainable employment of home support workers into the future.

The Minister for Health has recently invited submissions from key stakeholders in order to afford organisations, including the HSE, an opportunity to set out current workforce challenges; to gather data and evidence to support scoping the nature and extent of the issue in advance of the Department bringing the relevant stakeholders together in a structured process.

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, reading "Sandra Tuohy".

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**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Community Operations**  
**Services for Older People**

## Appendix 1 – No of New Clients / Applications 2019 to 2021 (incl)

### Home Support - New Clients

		NEW CLIENTS - HOME SUPPORT		
CHO	LHO	2021	2020	2019
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	499	570	258
CHO 1	Donegal	594	536	332
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	640	690	532
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,733</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>1,122</b>
CHO 2	Galway	1,048	1,110	971
CHO 2	Mayo	609	600	524
CHO 2	Roscommon	337	388	228
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>1,723</b>
CHO 3	Clare	605	520	359
CHO 3	Limerick	559	540	433
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	687	450	413
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>1,205</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	526	503	552
CHO 4	North Cork	349	273	260
CHO 4	North Lee	544	497	508
CHO 4	South Lee	729	597	617
CHO 4	West Cork	281	216	207
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>2,144</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	601	376	409
CHO 5	South Tipperary	479	278	345
CHO 5	Waterford	462	486	308
CHO 5	Wexford	697	641	550
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>1,612</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	523	450	414
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	1,043	892	763
CHO 6	Wicklow	318	384	412
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>1,726</b>	<b>1,589</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	499	539	617
CHO 7	Dublin South West	654	689	635
CHO 7	Dublin West	478	404	396
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	746	582	645
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>2,293</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	1,165	752	690
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1,156	506	240
CHO 8	Louth	613	577	416
CHO 8	Meath	973	545	287
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>1,633</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	1,180	1,156	682
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	820	826	669
CHO 9	Dublin North West	750	873	672
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>2,023</b>
<b>National Total</b>		<b>21,164</b>	<b>18,446</b>	<b>15,344</b>

## Appendix 2 – Home Support Waiting List – December 2021

		WAITING LIST	
		Funding	Carers
CHO	LHO	Total	Total
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	-	222
CHO 1	Donegal	66	85
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	-	58
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>365</b>
CHO 2	Galway	-	278
CHO 2	Mayo	-	293
CHO 2	Roscommon	-	127
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>698</b>
CHO 3	Clare	52	205
CHO 3	Limerick	-	180
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	-	138
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>523</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	1	208
CHO 4	North Cork	-	105
CHO 4	North Lee	-	120
CHO 4	South Lee	-	249
CHO 4	West Cork	-	114
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>796</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	-	135
CHO 5	South Tipperary	-	198
CHO 5	Waterford	-	317
CHO 5	Wexford	-	871
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,521</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	-
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	-	132
CHO 6	Wicklow	-	31
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>163</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	47	130
CHO 7	Dublin South West	107	274
CHO 7	Dublin West	48	201
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	80	113
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>718</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	8	-
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	-	113
CHO 8	Louth	-	147
CHO 8	Meath	-	204
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>464</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	13	74
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	29	-
CHO 9	Dublin North West	23	-
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>National Total</b>		<b>474</b>	<b>5,322</b>