



19<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 35381/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the various types of home care or home help packages or services provided by the HSE; the full list of organisations which provide home care or home help packages or services; the pathway to receiving such packages or services; 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 overall delivery of 24.26m hours nationally by year end. Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of May 2022. As of this date, 8,729,640 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 55,392 people. This represents a 9.1% increase in the number of hours delivered when compared to the same period last year. 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.

The HSE provides a range of services, including Home Support services, to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives. Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a service arrangements with external providers. Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other health care professional and a service-user may also self-refer. An individual's needs are assessed against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the assessed care needs of the individual, prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available.

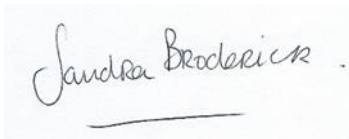
Following a tender process in 2018, each of the nine Community Health Organisations across the country have a number of Approved Providers available to provide a Home Support service to clients locally where the HSE is not in a position to provide the service directly. External providers operate subject to tender arrangements with the HSE and are paid in accordance with agreed tender rates. The current tender has been extended for a further and final 12-month period to end December 2022. The list of Approved Home Support Providers operating in each CHO is available at the following web-link:-

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/home-support-services/choosing-an-approved-provider/>

Resource available for the provision of Home Support services, while substantial are finite. The number of people in receipt of home support at any time will vary, having regard to the value of the individual home supports approved, as clients cease and new clients with different value home supports are approved and commenced and available resources. The volume of service allocated may also have regard to other support services already provided to the client/family, such as Day Care Services, Ancillary Therapies, Respite, Meals on Wheels, etc.

A joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE, for the design and development of the new statutory Home Support scheme and regulation, is underway with the Department of Health leading out on the detailed process to determine what type of Home Support scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people. 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 Broderick". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

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