



25th July 2022

Deputy Barry Cowen,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cowen,

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 37469/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare support hours being provided in each LHO area in CHO8 in 2022; the way that this compares for each of the LHO areas in 2019; the number of persons currently awaiting homecare in each LHO area; 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.

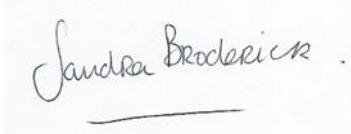
Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of June 2022. As of this date, 10,568,906 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 56,018 people. Also, as of this date, there were 230 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 5,240 people were assessed and approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned.

In relation to your data request with regards to each LHO in CHO8, there has been a 36% increase in service delivery over and above the level of service delivered in 2019. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of Home Support activity per LHO in CHO8 as requested.

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 care 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.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Activity CHO8 – 2022 vs 2019

CHO8	Home Support Hours Delivered			Waiting List - Jun 22	
	June 2022	June 2019	% Variance	Funding	Carers
Laois Offaly	299,944	219,270	37%	207	-
Longford Westmeath	294,276	192,151	53%	-	63
Louth	248,256	200,219	24%	-	180
Meath	300,150	230,020	30%	-	231
Total CHO8	1,142,626	841,660	36%	207	474