



27th July 2022

Deputy Jackie Cahill,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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 37473/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare support hours being provided in each LHO area in CHO3 and 5 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.

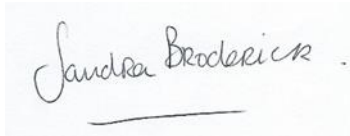
Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of June 2022. As of this date, 10,568,906 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 56,018 people. Also, as of this date, there were 230 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 5,240 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 CHO3 and CHO5, there has been a 22% increase in service delivery in CHO3, over and above the level of service delivered in 2019. For CHO5, the increase is 1%. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of Home Support activity per LHO in both areas, as requested. It should be noted that some areas of the country and in particular CHO 5 are experiencing significant challenges in carer capacity.

While there may be 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 the

establishment of the cross-departmental Strategic Workforce Advisory Group, led by Department of Health, to work with key stakeholders (including the HSE) to examine in detail at issues of recruitment, retention, skills development, pay and conditions, and sustainable employment of home support workers into the future.

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 black ink that reads "Sandra Broderick". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director – Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Activity CHO3 & CHO5 – 2022 vs 2019

Area		Home Support Hours Delivered			Waiting List - Jun 22	
		June 2022	June 2019	% Variance	Funding	Carers
CHO3	Clare	318,661	234,485	36%	-	255
CHO3	Limerick	351,594	293,811	20%	-	189
CHO3	North Tipperary East Limer	262,678	234,613	12%	-	163
Total		932,932	762,909	22%	-	607
CHO5	Carlow Kilkenny	279,452	256,354	9%	-	113
CHO5	South Tipperary	203,012	212,148	-4%	-	164
CHO5	Waterford	203,190	183,951	10%	-	188
CHO5	Wexford	329,415	354,741	-7%	-	487
Total		1,015,069	1,007,194	1%	-	952