



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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22nd July 2022

Deputy Duncan Smith,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: duncan.smith@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive 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: 38340/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of personal assistant hours that were funded in 2022; the number of persons who are currently supported; the number who have applied but not yet been granted support; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated 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 needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. The table below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2014 - 2021. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.



Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014-2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,335,759	1,482,492	1,510,116	1,516,727	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,930,000	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902

New Developments for 2022

In accordance with the National Service Plan 2022, the HSE will deliver 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports and 30,000 additional hours of home supports to expand and enhance supports for people to live self-directed lives in their own communities (please see breakdown of additional hours by CHO Area, in the table below).

The HSE will also develop a protocol for the eligibility and allocation of personal assistant services based on a universally agreed definition, in collaboration with DCEDIY, people with disabilities and service providers.

CHO Area	Allocated No. Hours of PA	Allocated No. Hours of Home Support
CHO 1	10,176	2,544
CHO 2	11,652	2,913
CHO 3	9,924	2,481
CHO 4	17,376	4,344
CHO 5	13,008	3,252
CHO 6	9,528	2,382
CHO 7	17,628	4,407
CHO 8	15,492	3,873
CHO 9	15,204	3,801

The delivery of PA and Home Support Services has remained steady during quarter 1, 2022; PA Services was below the target by -5.2% and Home Support Services was -1.1% below target for quarter 1 (data quarterly one month in arrears). It should be noted that several areas have returned partial data in relation to PA metrics for this period, so the figures presented show a data return rate of less than 100%.

Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 1, 2022

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2022 (up to Quarter 1)	2022 (Quarter 1)
National Total	2,525	403,017
CHO Area 1	192	23,232
CHO Area 2	492	88,685
CHO Area 3	490	87,620
CHO Area 4	399	31,371



CHO Area 5	351		37,894
CHO Area 6	12		6,878
CHO Area 7	93		21,288
CHO Area 8	295		49,205
CHO Area 9	201		56,845

Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 1, 2022

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2022 (up to Quarter 1)		2022 (Quarter 1)
National Total	7,067		771,455
CHO Area 1	875		114,442
CHO Area 2	1,050		55,304
CHO Area 3	501		57,268
CHO Area 4	639		54,025
CHO Area 5	919		82,509
CHO Area 6	516		90,136
CHO Area 7	610		82,830
CHO Area 8	1,172		142,759
CHO Area 9	785		92,182

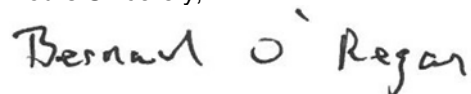
Waiting Lists

Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for Personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in 2018, in excess of 376 people required Home Support services in the future and 291 people were listed as awaiting PA services. The Databases are being replaced by the NASS system which is currently being rolled out. NASS will allow for key information to be collected on an ongoing basis in relation to the current and unmet support needs of all people with disabilities that engage with the disability sector, including people requiring PA and Home Support Services.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services, Community Operations

