

27th July 2022

Deputy Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 39558/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people that are waiting homecare support in Cork; the total number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in Cork the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Home Support service is a core service for older people and is highly valued by service users, their families and by the HSE. Delivery of a high-quality, consistent Home Support service is a key priority for Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, focusing on keeping people well in their homes and communities for as long as possible. We continue to work towards increasing Home Support provision; however, difficulties currently exist in relation to recruitment and retention of staff with certain areas experiencing increased pressures. Approved private providers, who work with the HSE in fulfilling Home Support service requests, are experiencing similar staff resource issues.

Recent regional recruitment campaigns, as well as on-going local campaigns, have yielded additional Health Care Support Assistant (HCSA) resources for the HSE Home Support service panel across Cork and Kerry. The recruitment clearance process for HCSA candidates on this panel is ongoing. Given the vulnerable population that HCSA staff provide service to, this is a rigorous process with a number of different elements to it and must be satisfactorily completed in advance of commencing their roles as HCSAs. Suitably cleared candidates from this panel are currently commencing employment throughout the region.

Within Cork city and county, 689 people are presently awaiting allocation of their Home Support service - 371 of these are new clients while 318 are existing clients waiting for additional hours. (June 2022 data).

The table below illustrates the total number of hours allocated for Home Support to new clients in each of the past 12 months in Cork:

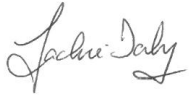
Cork City and County	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22
Total number of hours allocated for Home Support to new clients in each of the past 12 months:	525.3	831.0	905.6	761.2	842.8	589.9	711.8	759.5	715.1	1258.5	748.5	700.2

The average number of Home Support hours granted to each successful applicant in Cork city and county in the 12 month period to June 2022 was 4.65 hours.

The number of Home Support hours sought in communities is increasing in line with enhanced investment. Efforts are on-going to meet the continued increase in demand for the service. Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is committed to ensuring that older people with care needs are enabled to continue living independently at home for as long as possible.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons

