



10th August 2022

Deputy John Brady,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Brady,

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 41406/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have been granted home care support in 2021 that are still awaiting their care packages to be fulfilled by a carer or home support agency broken down by county and waiting timeframe in tabular form; 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. This represents a 9.3% increase in the number of hours delivered when compared to the same period last year. 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. Data requested in relation to (*waiting timeframe*) is not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate same nationally. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the current Home Support waiting list as at end of June 2022, broken down by CHO/LHO.

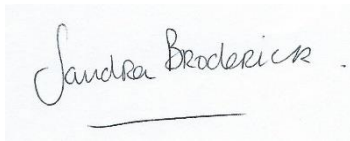
The HSE is aware that there are increasing capacity issues across both direct and indirect service provision. The HSE continues to advertise on an ongoing basis for Health Care Assistants (HCSAs) and recruits as many suitable candidates, where possible. The HSE conducts its recruitment through a variety of channels both at local level and

through the shared service offices of HBS. Due to the nature of Healthcare Support Assistants, this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going continually across the HSE in an effort to ensure availability of carers. Approved Home Support Providers also continue to recruit home support workers. Efforts are ongoing to meet the demand for home support services.

While there are sometimes 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. The HSE is working closely with the Department of Health and 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.

In addition 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 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
Community Operations
Services for Older People

Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List June 2022

		WAITING LIST - JUNE 2022	
CHO	LHO	Funding	Carers
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2	283
CHO 1	Donegal	-	168
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	-	75
CHO 1	Total	2	526
CHO 2	Galway	-	204
CHO 2	Mayo	-	227
CHO 2	Roscommon	-	135
CHO 2	Total	-	566
CHO 3	Clare	-	255
CHO 3	Limerick	-	189
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	-	163
CHO 3	Total	-	607
CHO 4	Kerry	-	289
CHO 4	North Cork	1	99
CHO 4	North Lee	-	104
CHO 4	South Lee	-	395
CHO 4	West Cork	-	90
CHO 4	Total	1	977
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	-	113
CHO 5	South Tipperary	-	164
CHO 5	Waterford	-	188
CHO 5	Wexford	-	487
CHO 5	Total	-	952
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	42
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	-	119
CHO 6	Wicklow	-	159
CHO 6	Total	-	320
CHO 7	Dublin South City	-	159
CHO 7	Dublin South West	-	200
CHO 7	Dublin West	-	186
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	13	117
CHO 7	Total	13	662
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	207	-
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	-	63
CHO 8	Louth	-	180
CHO 8	Meath	-	231
CHO 8	Total	207	474
CHO 9	Dublin North	7	68
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	-	3
CHO 9	Dublin North West	-	85
CHO 9	Total	7	156
National Total		230	5,240