

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Deputy Padraig O’Sullivan, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 34439/22:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare staff that were taken on by the HSE over the past twelve months in Cork city and county; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

Dear Deputy O’Sullivan,

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.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) is committed to the development of improved community-based services, shifting care to the home, and offering greater choice for older people. The Home Support service within CKCH is operating with less staff post-Covid and we endeavour to prioritise service for clients with the highest care needs to ensure that the service can commence for those who require it most urgently. Approved private providers, who work with the HSE in fulfilling Home Support service requests, are experiencing similar staff resource issues.

In order to bolster staff resources and reduce waiting times for allocation of service, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare advertises on an on-going basis for Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs) throughout the region. Due to the nature of the role, this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going across Cork and Kerry.

The table below illustrates the number of Health Care Support Assistants who commenced employment with CKCH from June 2021-June 2022 in Cork city and county, broken down by Local Health Office:

CHO	LHO	No of HCSA's who commenced employment between June 2021- June 2022
CKCH	North Cork	11
CKCH	North Lee	9
CKCH	South Lee	17
CKCH	West Cork	12
<b>CKCH</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

In addition to continuing local recruitment efforts, a regional HCSA recruitment campaign took place in early 2022 and a further supplementary regional recruitment campaign was undertaken in May 2022. Successful candidates are currently going through the robust recruitment clearance process required given the vulnerable population they provide service to. This process must be satisfactorily completed in advance of successful candidates commencing their roles as HCSAs.

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 have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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Jackie Daly  
Head of Service for Older Persons