



14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Deputy Róisín Shortall,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 34645/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for assessment for homecare packages by CHO, age category and time waiting in tabular form.**

**PQ 34644/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for homecare packages; the number of persons experiencing delayed discharge from hospital due to a delay accessing homecare; and the waiting lists for homecare packages by CHO and LHO in tabular form.**

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 May 2022. As of this date, 8,729,640 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 55,392 people. Also, as of this date, there were 348 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 4,720 people were assessed and approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. Data requested in relation to (*age category and time waiting*) 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 May 2022. Additionally, the latest Delayed Transfers of Care Report (DTCR) of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022

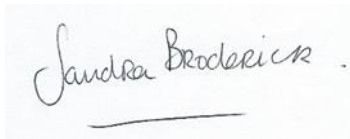
shows that of the 102 people waiting for discharge home across the Acute system, 61 of those are waiting for a carer to be assigned.

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 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.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. 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 cursive script that reads "Sandra Broderick". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

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**Sandra Broderick**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Community Operations**  
**Services for Older People**

## Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List - May 2022

		WAITING LIST - MAY 2022					
		Funding			Carers		
CHO	LHO	New	Addition	Total	New	Addition	Total
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	-	-	-	53	212	265
CHO 1	Donegal	-	-	-	103	67	170
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	-	-	-	24	30	54
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>180</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>489</b>
CHO 2	Galway	-	-	-	84	125	209
CHO 2	Mayo	-	-	-	108	159	267
CHO 2	Roscommon	-	-	-	11	101	112
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>203</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>588</b>
CHO 3	Clare	-	-	-	170	70	240
CHO 3	Limerick	-	-	-	118	82	200
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	-	-	-	88	44	132
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>376</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>572</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	-	-	-	193	96	289
CHO 4	North Cork	-	-	-	68	34	102
CHO 4	North Lee	-	-	-	61	40	101
CHO 4	South Lee	-	-	-	205	160	365
CHO 4	West Cork	-	-	-	42	45	87
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>569</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>944</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	-	-	-	18	102	120
CHO 5	South Tipperary	-	-	-	75	122	197
CHO 5	Waterford	-	-	-	85	111	196
CHO 5	Wexford	-	-	-	144	161	305
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>322</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>818</b>
CHO 6	Dublin South East	-	-	-	8	5	13
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	-	-	-	34	31	65
CHO 6	Wicklow	-	-	-	88	48	136
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>130</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>214</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	-	-	-	144	7	151
CHO 7	Dublin South West	-	-	-	174	-	174
CHO 7	Dublin West	-	-	-	150	30	180
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	-	14	14	81	-	81
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>586</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	207	-	207	-	-	-
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	-	-	-	34	47	81
CHO 8	Louth	-	-	-	67	99	166
CHO 8	Meath	-	-	-	111	80	191
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>207</b>	-	<b>207</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>438</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	4	3	7	49	22	71
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	11	16	27	-	-	-
CHO 9	Dublin North West	47	46	93	-	-	-
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>National Total</b>		<b>269</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>4,720</b>