



14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Deputy Joe Flaherty TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Flaherty,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which were submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 16862/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of additional home support hours that are being provided in 2022 for persons living with dementia.**

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 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.

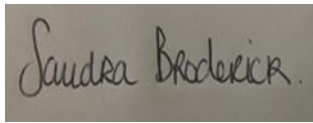
Preliminary\* overall home support activity data currently available reflects the period to end of February 2022. As of this date, 3,359,865 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 54,091 people.

*\* Please note that there were data gaps in a number of areas for February therefore estimates have been used for those areas for this reporting period.*

As at end of March, latest available data indicates that the number of additional weekly hours being provided to clients with Dementia or Cognitive Impairment was 5,879 weekly hours, made up of 3,078 hours relating to new clients and 2,801 additional hours allocated to existing clients.

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 rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Sandra Broderick." with a period at the end.

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