



18th May 2022

Deputy Verona Murphy TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 22043/22

To ask the Minister for Health if his Department intends to conduct an audit of the administration of homecare support hours; 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

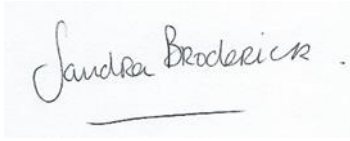
Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of March 2022. As of this date, 5,136,354 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 55,080 people. Also, as of this date, there were 286 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 5,458 people were assessed and approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned.

As part of the Tender 2018 Service Specifications, the HSE reserves the right to conduct audits of indirect service provider and administrative returns at any time. Guidance on the audit function of Home Support Services is set out under Section 2.4 of The Home Support Guidelines and Operating Procedures. Please follow the link hereunder to view the document:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/home-support-service-for-older-people-standard-operating-procedure-tender-2018.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Broderick". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People