

6th December 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 59570/22:

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the number of home help staff currently available to work in each area of CHO4, including a breakdown of the numbers employed on a full-time or part-time basis”.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The Home Support Service is a core service for older people and is highly valued by service users and their families as it enables older people to live independently in their own homes for longer. Home support hours in communities are increasing in line with enhanced investment. We provide more hours of home support to more people than ever before. Within Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, the Home Support service is delivering over 220,000 hours per month to over 7,000 clients.

However, more people than ever before are being referred for home care. Consequently, delivery of this service is not without its challenges. Delivering this enhanced capacity requires substantial recruitment. In order to bolster staff resources and reduce waiting times for allocation of service, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare advertises on an ongoing basis for Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs) throughout the region in an effort to recruit as many suitable candidates as possible. Approved private providers are also actively endeavouring to recruit additional staff resources. Due to the nature of the role of Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs), this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going across the region.

With regard to the number of Home Support staff currently available to work in each area of CHO 4, the data in the table below sets out the current position as at Pay Period 48 in 2022. It also illustrates the number of Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs) with a contract for 39 hours (full-time) as well as the number of HCSA staff with a contract for less than 39 hours (part-time).

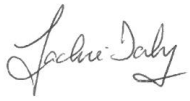
	North Lee	North Cork	South Lee	West Cork	Kerry
No. of Active HCSA's	294	251	384	218	394
Contracted to work 39hrs p/wk	20	3	34	5	29
Contract for less than 39 hrs p/wk	274	248	350	213	365

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. In this regard, we are making

every effort to address recruitment needs and ensure that waitlisted Home Support hours are delivered to clients across the region.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

