



20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Tully,

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

**PQ 47178/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider abolishing the consumer-directed home support grant given that the criteria to fulfil the grant are too onerous for elderly and vulnerable citizens and encourage dangerous practice; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 47931/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health his views on the adequacy of the consumer directed home support grant as it places the entire responsibility for employing home support on those caring for vulnerable family members; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 47930/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the consumer directed home support grant is being administered within each CHO area; the number of consumer directed home support grants which were administered in each CHO from 2017 to date, in tabular form; 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.

Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS) was launched in 2018, and was included as part of the Tender Framework Arrangements that commenced on 01 September 2018. It is an option for persons' who apply for Home Support and who wish to have more control and choice over their care delivery in keeping with the principles of empowerment and autonomy inherent in person centred care. When a client is approved for a Home Support Service and HSE staff are not available to deliver the service, then an external provider, who has been approved by the HSE under Tender 2018 Arrangements, will deliver the service on their behalf.

The CDHS approach facilitates suitable clients to deal directly with HSE Approved Provider(s) of their choice and to arrange days and times of service delivery. Further information on Consumer Directed Home Support can be found at the following link: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/national-guidelines-and-procedures-for-the-standardised-implementation-of-the-home-support-service-hss-guidelines.pdf>

The number of people in receipt of home support including CDHS at any time will vary, having regard to the value of the individual home supports approved, as clients cease and new clients with different value home supports are approved and commenced. Please note that data in relation to *“the number of consumer directed home support grants which were administered in each CHO from 2017 to date, in tabular form”* is not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources nationally to gather same. Notwithstanding this, in consultation with the CHOs, the HSE understands that the general uptake of CDHS nationally to date has been low.

A joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE, for the design and development of the new statutory home support scheme and regulation, is underway with the Department of Health leading out on the detailed process to determine what type of home care scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people. 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 black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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**Kathleen Jordan**  
General Manager  
Services for Older People  
Community Operations