



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
Community Operations
Services for Older People

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21 October 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Eireann,
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 47933/22

To ask the Minister for Health the funding that has been allocated to each CHO from 2017 to date to recruit staff to the home support service; the CHO areas that had an underspend of their allocation from 2017 to date; the actions that are been taken within each CHO area to recruit home care support staff; 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. The current service provision split is Direct Service Provision at 38% and Indirect Service Provision at 62%.

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.

The HSE is fully cognisant of increasing capacity issues across both direct and indirect service provision. The HSE continues to advertise on an ongoing basis for Health Care Support 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 Health Care Support Assistants, recruitment is normally conducted at a local level and is on-going continually across the HSE in an effort to ensure availability of carers. As at end of September 2022 (latest available data) there were 5,297 Healthcare Support Assistants (HCSAs) employed with the HSE nationally. Please see Appendix 1 and 2 below in relation to data requested.

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 cursive script that reads "Kathleen Jordan".

Kathleen Jordan
General Manager
Services for Older People
Community Operations

Appendix 1 - Home Support Budget Allocation for 2017 - 2022 (including HH & HCP Budget 2017)

	Home Support Budget	Home Support Budget	Home Support Budget	Home Support Budget	Home Support Budget	Home Support Budget
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Home Support Allocation	€ 637 m	€ 624 m	€ 466 m	€ 421 m	€ 405 m	€ 368 m

Appendix 2 - Headcount Home Support Directly Employed HCSAs

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Directly Employed HCSAs (Home Helps)	5,289	5,195	5,268	5,712	6,134	6,342