



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
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Services for Older People

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7th November 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 47934/22

To ask the Minister for Health the HSE policy on the allocation of available homecare support assistants in each CHO; if the allocation is carried out based on severity of need or other factors; if not, his views on whether it should be; 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.

Home support staff have traditionally been, and remain, mainly part-time workers due to the nature and flexibility of the work involved and the care needs of clients that must be attended to within specific time frames during any day. The home support service which people receive is based on an individual client's care needs which are assessed by clinical staff and the home support provided will vary dependent on the level of dependency and other support structures in place such as attendance at day care.

The HSE continues to actively recruit staff as required and acknowledges the valuable contribution that our home help staff make in the high level of care provided to our clients and the positive impact the home support service has on enabling older people to remain living in their own homes and communities.

The overall home care resource and the range of providers, including HSE directly employed staff, is carefully managed by local health offices within each community healthcare organisation, to ensure that this key service is available at the required times, in a flexible way and at the appropriate standard to support clients' changing assessed needs.

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, slightly slanted style.

Kathleen Jordan
General Manager
Services for Older People
Community Operations