



1st November 2022

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 48267/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an-up-to date list of approved home support providers across all counties in tabular form; the level of home service supports provided directly by the HSE, separate to those provided by third-party providers on behalf of the HSE; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 48268/22

To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid to approved home support providers by the HSE in each of the years 2018 to 2021 and to date in 2022, 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, with NSP 2022 providing for the overall delivery of 24.26m hours nationally by year end. 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.

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. Home Support services are provided by both directly employed Healthcare Support Assistants (HCSAs) and Approved Providers with formal tendered arrangements with the HSE.

A list of approved Home Support Approved Providers per CHO, under current tender arrangements, are available at the following link; <https://www.hse.ie/eng/home-support-services/choosing-an-approved-provider/>.

In relation to the rates paid to Approved Providers with regards to the delivery of Home Support services for Older People, these are paid in accordance with the Tender 2018 Framework; the current tender in operation. As part of that Tender process, prospective providers were asked to submit individual rates for consideration, in line with the Invitation to Tender and related Specifications. Tender rates vary across CHO areas and from Provider to Provider with a range of rates applicable for core and non-core hours.

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. The HSE acknowledges the valuable contribution that home support carers make in the high level of care provided to our clients and the positive impact that the service has on enabling those with assessed needs to remain living in their own homes and communities.

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 Operatio

