



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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28th October 2022

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: marylou.mcdonald@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy McDonald,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 51280/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of personal assistant hours delivered each month to date in 2022, in tabular form; the number of people receiving these hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 51281/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of personal assistant hours to be delivered in 2023, in tabular form; the number of people who will receive these hours; the budgetary allocation for these hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial



they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. The table below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2014 - 2021. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014-2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,335,759	1,482,492	1,510,116	1,516,727	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,930,000	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Prior to COVID-19, the HSE was committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2020 National Service Plan, the HSE’s priority was continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support to approximately 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.67 million PA hours and 3.08 million Home Support hours.

In preparing for and responding to COVID-19 and to fully align with Public Health guidance as recommended via the NPHE, the HSE and its partner service providers put in place a range of measures, which included the prioritisation of vital Residential and Home Support/PA services whilst curtailing or closing certain services such as day services, respite services, and certain clinical & therapeutic supports.

The number of people in receipt of PA and Home Support services remained steady throughout the pandemic. The number of PA hours exceeded the NSP 2020 target by 6.7%, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly as a result of additional PA hours being provided in lieu of other services.

Activity Data for 2022

In accordance with the National Service Plan 2022, the HSE committed to delivering 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports to expand and enhance supports for people to live self-directed lives in their own communities.

The delivery of PA Services has remained steady to end quarter 2, 2022 - below the target by -5.3% (data reported quarterly one month in arrears). It should be noted that several areas have returned partial data in relation to PA metrics for this period, so the figures presented show a data return rate of less than 100%.




Table 3 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 2, 2022

CHO	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered	
	2022 (up to end Quarter 2)		2022 (Quarter 2)
National Total	2,545		805,214
CHO Area 1	179		41,894
CHO Area 2	489		176,959
CHO Area 3	483		170,974
CHO Area 4	414		65,169
CHO Area 5	352		77,474
CHO Area 6	47		13,223
CHO Area 7	94		42,340
CHO Area 8	255		84,388
CHO Area 9	232		132,793

In relation to 2023 activity, the HSE welcomes the Letter of Determination from the Minister for Health and is currently engaged in the process of developing the 2023 National Service Plan in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions and funding allocation. In this regard, the HSE is not in a position currently to provide detailed information on how the allocated funding will be spent, however, it is expected that there will be a commitment to additional hours of personal assistant supports for 2023.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**

