



20th September 2022

**Roisin Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

PQ 44275/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons awaiting approval for homecare; and the number who have been approved but are waiting for homecare staff by CHO in tabular form.

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.

NSP 2022 provides for the following: -

- Rollover of the 2021 target levels of service into 2022, inclusive of the additional 5m hours funded in 2021 to 23.67m hours nationally
- 360,000 hours provided via Intensive Home Care Packages
- 230,000 hours associated with the roll-out of the pilot Statutory Home Support Scheme, which commenced in late 2021

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.

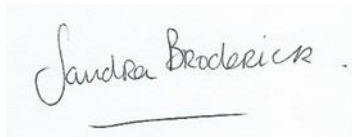
Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of July 2022. As of this date, 12,432,029 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 56,284 people. Also, as of this date, there were 328 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 5,312 people were assessed and approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the Home Support Waiting List as at end of July 2022. *

The HSE is aware that there are increasing capacity issues across both direct and indirect service provision. The HSE continues to advertise on an ongoing basis for Health Care 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 Healthcare Support Assistants, this recruitment is normally conducted at a very local level and is on-going continually across the HSE in an effort to ensure availability of carers. Approved Home Support Providers also continue to recruit Home Support workers. Efforts are ongoing to meet the demand for Home Support services.

While there may be delays between the approval of funding and the availability of carers to commence delivery of home support hours in certain regions, significant work is underway to address these challenges. This includes the establishment of the cross-departmental Strategic Workforce Advisory Group, led by Department of Health, to work with key stakeholders (including the HSE) to examine in detail at issues of recruitment, retention, skills development, pay and conditions, and sustainable employment of home support workers into the future.

In addition, 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 Support 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 "Sandra Broderick". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background. Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Sandra Broderick
Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People



Home Support Waiting List 2022

Report Date: July 2022

CHO	WAITING LIST - JULY 2022		
	Funding	Carers	Total
CHO 1	2	534	536
CHO 2	-	589	589
CHO 3	-	611	611
CHO 4	-	1,070	1,070
CHO 5	-	816	816
CHO 6	-	271	271
CHO 7	-	798	798
CHO 8	224	511	735
CHO 9	102	112	214
National Total	328	5,312	5,640