



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
@hselive  
t 087 345 5593  
e [olderpeople.operations@hse.ie](mailto:olderpeople.operations@hse.ie)

02 May 2023

Michael Ring,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Ring,

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 17915/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if the enhanced homecare package scheme is available in every county in Ireland (details supplied); if it is not, if he will list the counties that the scheme is available in, 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. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is available nationally to all those who require it. Access is based on an assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the service.

Demand for Home Support continues to increase due to population growth and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort. Waiting lists for Home Support have become a feature of the service, now primarily associated with an increasing capacity issue related to the availability of care staff. In terms of those waiting, priority is given to those in the community with acute needs and to those assessed and waiting in acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports. Funding approval for Home Support for those assessed as requiring same is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times.

The Strategic Workforce Advisory Group on Home Carers & Nursing Home Healthcare Assistants have set out a number of recommendations in their October 2022 published report through which the current workforce crisis in Healthcare Assistants (and home support staff) could be addressed at a cross governmental level. Further discussions are to be held with DoH on the phased implementation of the recommendations assigned to the HSE for delivery and the associated funding implications.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

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**Kathleen Jordan**  
**Head of Service – Home Support**  
**Services for Older People**  
**Community Operations**