



**Head of Service for Older Persons
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**
Health Service Executive
Caha House, Business & Technology Park
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Cork Eircode: T12 XHT4

Cúram Sláinte Pobail - Corcaigh & Ciarraí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
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26th April 2023

Deputy Holly Cairns, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 18354/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to provide home support hours to individuals assessed to need them in CHO4.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

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 staff resources and competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

When a client is approved for Home Support, commencement of the service is dependent on carer capacity being available for that service. Clients who are approved for a Home Support service, where carers are not readily available at that time, are placed on a waiting list until such time as a carer becomes available.

The HSE endeavours to prioritise service for clients with the highest care needs, to ensure that the service can commence for those who require it most urgently. Applicants on the Waiting List will generally be offered support by reference to their chronological date on the waiting list. However, where applicants who are at risk are on the waiting list and in order that those applicants at greatest risk receive supports, Home Support will be offered on the basis of Priority Ranking Score – those who score highest will be taken from the waiting list ahead of persons who have scored lower. Where a number of applicants have equal priority status, chronological order will apply to determine which of that group of applicants is to be offered the next available support/resource.

Allocation of support is dependent on capacity to provide the support within available staff resources. Higher ranking clients will be allocated support ahead of persons who have scored lower. When staff become available to deliver support to waitlisted clients of equal priority status, this support is allocated according to the client's chronological date on the list.

As referenced in our previous response to PQs 17501 and 17502, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare is making every effort to recruit additional home support staff in order to deliver enhanced capacity in the home support sector. When new staff are recruited, they are prioritised for areas where the demand is greatest.



The Department of Health is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. 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.

I trust this clarifies the position and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

