

Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísi do Dhaoine Aosta
Teileafón: 087 345 5593
Ríomhphost: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie



Office of the Assistant National Director
Community Operations
Services for Older People
Tel: 087 345 5593
Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

08 May 2023

**Patricia Ryan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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 18669/23

To ask the Minister for Health how many support hours were provided in the past year on the national service plan; 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 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.

Demand for home support continues to increase due to population growth and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥ 80 years, within the over 65 years' cohort. In the context of increasing demand, priority is given to those being discharged from acute hospitals who are in a position to return home with supports and to those in the community with acute needs. Funding approval is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times. 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. The HSE advertises on an ongoing basis for Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs) and recruits as many suitable candidates where possible.

The most up to date 2023 activity reflects the year to date period of 31st of March, 2023. As of this date 5,203,495 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 56,980 people. As at the 31st of December 2022 the data shows that 56,162 people were in receipt of Home Support on that date and that 20,792,722 Home Support hours were delivered over the course of 2022.

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan".

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