



21st February 2023

Colm Burke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 5660/23

To ask the Minister for Health the rationale for not including the average length of time waiting for a Home Support package in national KPI reporting requirements; if consideration has been made for reporting the same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

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.

Available waiting list data reflects those that have been assessed and categorised as either waiting on Care Staff or Waiting on Funding, in both Community and Acute setting. These categories are further broken out as to whether the client is waiting on a New service or is an existing client waiting on an additional service.

At present, activity data in relation to the average length of waiting time is not collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally. By their very nature, Home Support waiting lists reflect a point in time. Given the finite resources available within Home Support services, waiting list management processes must take into account the HSEs prioritisation procedures, wherein those whose clinically assessed needs are greater than others, are prioritised for service. In light of these parameters, providing an average time frame a person remains on the waiting list would ultimately provide an inaccurate view of the Home Support waiting list in its totality.

Yours sincerely,

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