



27th February 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 6551/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people awaiting assessment for homecare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Patricia Ryan

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.

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. 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. Available waiting list data reflects those that have been assessed and categorised as either waiting on Care Staff or Funding. Activity data relating to numbers waiting on assessment is not held nationally and therefore we are not in a position to provide this information. As outlined we can provide activity by:

- Number of Clients assessed and waiting for funding for the provision of Home Support
- Number of Clients assessed and waiting for Care Staff for the provisions of Home Support.

Appendix 1 below provides the 2022 year end position at a National/CHO level for the specified waiting list categories.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

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

Appendix 1: Home Support Waiting List December 2022

	Funding	Carers
CHO	Total	Total
CHO 1	-	735
CHO 2	-	586
CHO 3	-	568
CHO 4	-	1,501
CHO 5	-	1,043
CHO 6	-	445
CHO 7	-	913
CHO 8	-	755
CHO 9	7	127
National Total	7	6,673