



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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2nd February 2023

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: marylou.mcdonald@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy McDonald,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 2460/23

To ask the Minister for Health the budget allocated by his Department to the personal assistant scheme for people with disabilities for the years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 inclusive; and the personal assistant scheme budget allocated to each CHO area for 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 inclusive in tabular form

PQ: 2461/23

To ask the Minister for Health when he will address the deficit in the personal assistant scheme funding as identified by community healthcare organisations.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In



this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. The table below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2014 - 2021. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014-2021

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,335,759	1,482,492	1,510,116	1,516,727	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,930,000	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902

New Developments for 2022

In accordance with the National Service Plan 2022, the HSE will deliver 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports and 30,000 additional hours of home supports to expand and enhance supports for people to live self-directed lives in their own communities.

Please see Table 3 and Table 4 below, which provide detailed information regarding the delivery of PA and Home Support at the end of September 2022. The delivery of PA and Home Support Services has remained steady during quarter 3, 2022; PA Services was above the target by +4.4% and Home Support Services was +5% above target for quarter 3 (data quarterly one month in arrears).

Table 3 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, to end Quarter 3, 2022

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2022 (to end Quarter 3)	2022 (to end Quarter 3)
National Total	2,695	1,330,968
CHO Area 1	154	61,544
CHO Area 2	541	267,832
CHO Area 3	507	250,531
CHO Area 4	407	95,704
CHO Area 5	351	127,692
CHO Area 6	127	67,176
CHO Area 7	90	63,165
CHO Area 8	284	133,817
CHO Area 9	234	263,507



Table 4 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, to end Quarter 3, 2022

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2022 (to end Quarter 3)	2022 (to end Quarter 3)
National Total	6,965	2,457,803
CHO Area 1	893	348,285
CHO Area 2	605	172,729
CHO Area 3	596	238,368
CHO Area 4	728	178,835
CHO Area 5	911	257,220
CHO Area 6	495	268,627
CHO Area 7	575	246,819
CHO Area 8	1,161	445,777
CHO Area 9	1,001	301,144

Funding 2018 – 2022

The table below details the funding allocated to PA and Home Support Services in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Funding allocated has increased year on year. It is important to note that PA supports are funded alongside Home Support Service provision

Service area	Budget 2018	Final 2019	Final NSP 2020	Final NSP 2021	Final NSP 2022
	€000	€000	€000	€000	€000
PA & Home Support	80,957	84,909	93,885	100,613	109,809
Total Funding Allocated	1,772,300	1,903,625	2,049,500	2,209,719	2,347,380

Waiting Lists

Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

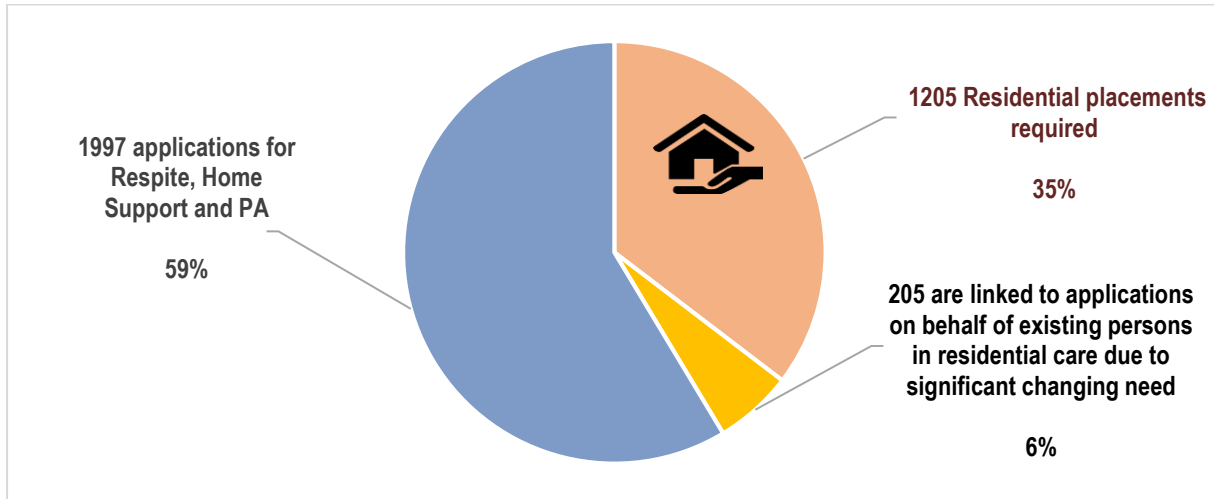
The HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The DSMAT provides a consistent listing process for each CHO Area by presenting a detailed profile of the individuals (Adults & Children) who require funded supports outside of the current service quantum.

It captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals, including specialised profiles of behavioural intensity, key diagnoses, and complex support needs due to the extent and intensity of intellectual and/or physical & sensory disability.



It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services subject to budgetary constraints. This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

The graph below illustrates demand profile, outside of current service quantum, for new Residential Services and for non-residential services, such as PA, Home Support and Respite Services.



Non-Residential Services demand accounts for 1,997 applications. Please note that Non-Residential comprises demand for either Respite, Personal Assistance (P.A.) or Home Support Hours. Frequently, the required service response may be a mixture of support hour and centre-based respite.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

Yours Sincerely,

**Mr Bernard O'Regan,
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations**