



3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2022,

Deputy Pauline Tully,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Tully,

PQ 3300/23

**To ask the Minister for Health on the evaluation report of the pilot of the statutory home support scheme; the timeframe for when the report will be made public; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department 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, with NSP 2022 providing for the overall delivery of 24.26m hours nationally by year end, which includes 260k hours as part of the Home Support Pilot Programme. 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.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

One of the key strategic intents of Sláintecare is to transform community services through a modernisation of the health care system, redirecting care out of the acute hospital system and into primary and community settings. This will see enhanced provision of care and support to older persons and persons of increasing frailty in their homes, where appropriate. In recognition that Home Support is a key service within the Irish healthcare system, a joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE for the design, development and regulation of the new statutory home support scheme is currently underway with the Department of Health leading out on a detailed process to determine what type of scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of those requiring support.

Part of this process was to test the delivery of home support services, presently underway in four pilot sites across the country. It is not intended that the pilot will be expanded into 2023 or to include additional pilot sites. As part of the pilot, interRAI assessments are being conducted for clients seeking home support in the four pilot areas, and the standardised outputs from same will be used to



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determine prioritisation and levels of care required. All new clients seeking home support services within the pilot sites are being included in the pilot, subject to each client providing consent to same. Phase 1 of this pilot programme (data collection phase) was extended to the end of August 2022, and will the evaluation commenced in Q3 2022. The report of the evaluation will be published in 2023.

Once completed, the outcome of the pilot will inform the overall design of the new statutory Home Support Scheme. Draft Regulations for Providers of Home Support Services were published by the Department of Health mid-June for public consultation with HIQA's Standards for Home Care and Support Services also due to issue for public consultation in the coming months.

It is envisaged that the statutory Home Support Scheme will be implemented into 2024; however no definitive commencement date has been indicated at this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janette Dwyer'.

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**Janette Dwyer**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**Change & Innovation, Services for Older People**