



08 August 2023

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

PQ 33841/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of intensive homecare packages delivered in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, by CHO, in tabular form; the number of hours sought; the number of hours funded; and the funding allocated and spent in each year.

PQ 33842/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of homecare packages delivered in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, by CHO, in tabular form; the number of hours sought; the number of hours funded; and the funding allocated and spent in each year.

PQ 33843/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people currently in receipt of the maximum hours of intensive homecare; the number of people in receipt of their full allocation; and the number of people not in receipt of their full allocation.

PQ 33844/23

To ask the Minister for Health the manner by which a person may apply for an intensive homecare package; and the maximum number of hours that may be allocated to a single individual.

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 ≥80years, 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. In terms of those waiting, priority is given to those in the community with acute needs and to those assessed and waiting in acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports. Funding approval for Home Support for those assessed as requiring same is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times.

The roll out of Intensive Home Care Packages (IHCPs) commenced in Q4 2014 and an Intensive Home Care Package relates to those Home Support clients with higher levels of assessed care needs or complexity, in receipt of a considerably higher value of supports in the Community to facilitate:-

- a) Return home from hospital or residential care and/or
- b) Prevent attendance/admission to A&E/Acute Hospital and/or
- c) Prevent or delay admission to long term residential care
- d) To support people with dementia

In terms of the requested information, Appendix 1 hereunder sets out Intensive Home Care Package (IHCP) activity as follows:

- a) Number of clients in receipt of an IHCP as at 31st December for 2020, 2021, 2022 and as at 30th June 2023 (latest available data) and is point in time.
- b) Total full year expenditure on IHCPs for each of the aforementioned years and June YTD 2023.

The IHCP Scheme is managed within an overall allocation of €9m annually and the scheme has evolved in the intervening period. In addition to the activity levels at Appendix 1 below, please note that as part of the National Service Plan (NSP) 2021), an additional 5m hours were provided and funded for, increasing the overall target to 24.26m inclusive of the IHCP target of 230,000 hours.

Under this initiative, additional funding and associated target hours were allocated to CHOs at local level to facilitate clients with higher assessed care needs/complexity in accordance with existing Home Support service application and review processes.

In addition to Intensive Home Care Packages and various initiatives to support older people to remain in their own homes, the HSE continues to provide mainstream Home Support and other appropriate community based supports such as day care, respite etc. to people whose needs have been assessed as requiring these supports and within available resources.

Yours sincerely,



Kathleen Jordan

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

Appendix 1

Number of Clients in receipt of IHCPs (point in time)

As at 31 December 2020	As at 31 December 2021	As at 31 December 2022	As at 30 th June 2023
149	115	80	77

IHCP Expenditure

FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	June YTD 2023
€6.078m	€5.316m	€3.120m	€1.694m