



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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Disability Services/Social Care Division,
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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3rd August 2023

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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: 36682/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of persons with disabilities in 2023 that are in receipt of home-support hours in each LHO area; the total number of hours to be provided in 2023 in each LHO area; and the corresponding figures for 2020, 2021 and 2022, in tabular form.

PQ: 36683/23

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of persons with disabilities in 2023 that are in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area; the total number of hours to be provided in 2023 in each LHO area; and the corresponding figures for 2020, 2021 and 2022, in tabular form.

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. Table 1 below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a



disability from 2014 - 2022. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

Table 1: Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014-2022

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
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	1,746,136
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669
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	3,369,146
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164

COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Prior to COVID-19, the HSE was committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2020 National Service Plan, the HSE’s priority was continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support to approximately 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.67 million PA hours and 3.08 million Home Support hours.

In preparing for and responding to COVID-19 and to fully align with Public Health guidance as recommended via the NPHE, the HSE and its partner service providers put in place a range of measures, which included the prioritisation of vital Residential and Home Support/PA services whilst curtailing or closing certain services such as day services, respite services, and certain clinical & therapeutic supports.

The number of people in receipt of PA and Home Support services remained steady throughout the pandemic. The number of PA hours exceeded the NSP 2020 target by 6.7%, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly as a result of additional PA hours being provided in lieu of other services.

Activity Data for 2020

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2020.

Table 2 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2020

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2020	2020
National Total	2,673	1,781,310
CHO Area 1	228	128,050
CHO Area 2	471	324,017
CHO Area 3	459	335,308
CHO Area 4	474	143,951
CHO Area 5	383	164,506
CHO Area 6	12	29,028
CHO Area 7	104	108,971
CHO Area 8	263	174,195
CHO Area 9	279	373,285



Table 3 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2020

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2020		2020
National Total	6,792		2,939,541
CHO Area 1	721		330,502
CHO Area 2	1,087		210,684
CHO Area 3	486		201,776
CHO Area 4	612		241,932
CHO Area 5	840		327,558
CHO Area 6	545		351,540
CHO Area 7	812		355,122
CHO Area 8	862		511,666
CHO Area 9	827		408,761

Activity Data for 2021

As per the 2021 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority was to continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support Services to 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.74 million PA hours and over 3 million Home Support Hours. This includes the allocation of an additional 40,000 PA hours in accordance with the NSP 2021.

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2021.

At that time, the restoration and continuity of PA and Home Support services was underway in a safe way and while services are now operational in all areas, there was reduced capacity due to necessary infection prevention and control requirements.

The delivery of PA and Home Support Services remained steady during 2021; PA Services was below the target by - 2.3% and Home Support Services was 2.0% below target at year end (data quarterly one month in arrears).

Table 4 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2021

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2021		2021
National Total	2,613		1,700,309
CHO Area 1	229		125,488
CHO Area 2	491		348,127
CHO Area 3	475		345,261
CHO Area 4	404		136,841
CHO Area 5	364		150,992
CHO Area 6	21		29,044
CHO Area 7	101		100,830
CHO Area 8	296		182,513
CHO Area 9	232		281,214



Table 5– Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2021

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2021		2021
National Total	6,902		2,949,806
CHO Area 1	742		373,219
CHO Area 2	1,081		232,883
CHO Area 3	465		202,384
CHO Area 4	532		246,788
CHO Area 5	811		328,376
CHO Area 6	560		369,394
CHO Area 7	766		345,918
CHO Area 8	1,088		557,936
CHO Area 9	857		292,907

Activity Data for 2022

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

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2022.

The delivery of PA and Home Support Services has remained steady during 2022; PA Services was above the target by +2.7% and Home Support Services was +8% above target for the year (data quarterly one month in arrears).

Table 6 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2022

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2022		2022
National Total	2,669		1,746,136
CHO Area 1	169		81,250
CHO Area 2	527		361,589
CHO Area 3	440		325,278
CHO Area 4	413		119,461
CHO Area 5	364		166,780
CHO Area 6	128		88,248
CHO Area 7	94		85,124
CHO Area 8	282		175,032
CHO Area 9	252		343,374



Table 7– Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2022

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2022		2022
National Total	7,164		3,369,146
CHO Area 1	893		464,473
CHO Area 2	605		232,186
CHO Area 3	596		331,907
CHO Area 4	728		234,953
CHO Area 5	911		348,798
CHO Area 6	495		356,508
CHO Area 7	774		409,506
CHO Area 8	1161		530,612
CHO Area 9	1001		460,203

Activity Data for 2023

As per the National Service Plan 2023, the HSE is committed to deliver an additional 70,370 personal assistant hours to expand and enhance the supports for people to live self-directed lives in the community. The figures for Quarter 1, 2023 are in line with national targets and are provided below.

Please see Tables 8 and 9 below which gives end of Quarter 1, 2023 information. Data is provided quarterly one month in arrears so this is the most recent information available for 2023.

Table 8 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 1, 2023

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2023 (up to end Quarter 1)		2023 (Quarter 1)
National Total	2,630		432,279
CHO Area 1	145		18,872
CHO Area 2	471		82,681
CHO Area 3	553		99,391
CHO Area 4	307		24,447
CHO Area 5	378		41,104
CHO Area 6	115		18,061
CHO Area 7	90		19,552
CHO Area 8	343		51,289
CHO Area 9	228		76,882



Table 9 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 1, 2023

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2023 (up to end Quarter 1)		2023 (Quarter 1)
National Total	6,226		730,876
CHO Area 1	725		89,072
CHO Area 2	463		57,809
CHO Area 3	760		103,299
CHO Area 4	317		38,553
CHO Area 5	946		102,836
CHO Area 6	446		78,704
CHO Area 7	878		109,479
CHO Area 8	674		98,600
CHO Area 9	1,017		52,526

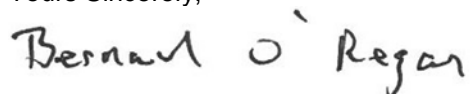
The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

Future Planning

With regard to additional PA and Home Support Services, the Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review advises that up to €15 million per year by 2032 – equivalent to 600,000 additional hours - is needed to meet the requirements for Personal Assistants and Home Support.

Each CHO continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/ safeguarding risks, through active case-management and inter-agency cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,



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

