



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta  
Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –  
Community Operations  
Services for Older People

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11<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Deputy Duncan Smith,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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 37090/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided for the home support service in 2023; the number of home care packages funded; the projected additional cost of providing a home care package to every identified case in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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, having regard to the available resources and competing demands for the service. The volume and type of service provided to each client is based on individually assessed care needs and will vary dependent on the needs identified and the resources available to meet those needs.

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. In the context of increasing demand, priority is given to those being discharged from acute hospitals who are in a position to return home with supports and to those in the community with acute needs. Funding approval is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times. While there may be delays between the approval of funding and the availability of carers to commence delivery of home support hours in certain regions, significant work is underway to address these challenges. The HSE advertises on an ongoing basis for Health Care Support Assistants (HCSAs) and recruits as many suitable candidates, where possible.

The HSE is funded to deliver home support services in line with NSP 2023. As of end of June 2023 YTD (latest available preliminary data) **10,548,049** Home Support hours were delivered nationally to **53,579** people an increase of 3.7% in the number of hours delivered when compared to the same period last year. On 30 June 2023, the total number of people assessed and waiting on funding to be allocated was **zero**, while the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at **6,020**.

The projected full year cost of providing a Home Support package to all clients on the waiting list, based on average number of hours per client per week and average overall hourly rate (as at end June) would be in the region of €70.8m.



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Yours sincerely,

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