



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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

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15th 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 37091/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home care and home help hours funded in 2022, and 2023, respectively; the amount not utilised due to staffing shortages; 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.

As of end of December 2022 **20,792,772** Home Support hours were delivered nationally to **56,162** people. 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 on hours delivered by of 3.7 % when compared to the same period last year. On 30 June 2023, the total number of people assessed and waiting on funding approval was **zero**, while the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at **6,020**.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

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

Appendix 1: National/CHO/ Home Support activity v. target as of the 30th June 2023 (latest available data)

CHO Summary YTD	Full Year Target 2023	Total Hours delivered June 2023
National Total	11,828,272	10,548,049
CHO 1	1,301,713	1,199,639
CHO 2	1,304,192	1,084,637
CHO 3	1,068,643	936,623
CHO 4	1,612,927	1,316,772
CHO 5	1,165,341	951,046
CHO 6	912,439	919,299
CHO 7	1,249,643	1,170,897
CHO 8	1,388,497	1,255,007
CHO 9	1,824,877	1,714,130

Appendix 2: National/CHO/ Home Support activity v. target as of the 31st December, 2018

CHO Summary YTD	Full Year Target 2022	Total Hours Delivered 2022
National Total	23,670,000	20,792,772
CHO 1	2,303,480	2,286,603
CHO 2	2,509,450	2,284,610
CHO 3	1,890,000	1,879,520
CHO 4	3,519,300	2,774,503
CHO 5	2,639,310	2,061,505
CHO 6	1,989,970	1,625,088
CHO 7	2,857,640	2,237,291
CHO 8	2,377,460	2,376,217
CHO 9	3,583,390	3,267,436