



05<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Ms Claire Kerrane, TD  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 13213/23**

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Minister for Health has requested the HSE to respond directly to your Parliamentary Question;

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will increase the budget available to meals on wheels providers in recognition of increased running costs to providers to ensure this vital service can be continued to our most vulnerable and isolated citizens**

There are currently 340 Meals on Wheels organisations in operation nationally delivering 250,000 (average) meals monthly to approximately 180,000 clients. These organisations are geographically located across 9 Community Health Organisations (CHO) and budgets are managed locally through each CHO.

Details of an additional €1.75m for 2023, specifically for Meals on Wheels, has been communicated to CHO Older Person Services for their onward distribution to local service providers, with a request to review and target where needed most. In addition, €3.5m was allocated for Day Care Services, many of which also provide Meals on Wheels services.

An overall evaluation of Meals on Wheels services is underway. This will include direct work with CHOs and consultation with the Irish Rural Network, Meals on Wheels Network Development Officer to understand gaps in availability and capacity of providers to increase or improve service delivery.

Yours sincerely,

**Fiona Hammond**  
General Manager  
Intermediate Care Lead  
HSE Community Operations, Services for Older People

