



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)
t 087 345 5593
e olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

2nd June 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 Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 23/22765

To ask the Minister for Health the hourly cost of the HSE directly providing home care services; the cost per hour; the equivalent cost for a whole-time equivalent worker; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 23/22764

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of ensuring a living wage for health care assistants and home support workers who are providing publicly contracted home support hours, whether they work for the HSE or another provider; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Home Support Services are an important component of the provision of service to older people with assessed needs and to support them in their choice of living in their own home and community. The HSE, working within its available resources, has sought to maintain and when possible, expand the range and volume of services available to support people to remain in their own homes, to prevent early admission to long term residential care and to support people to return to their homes following an acute hospital admission.

Home Support services for Older People are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the client's assessed needs.

In terms of costs, a comprehensive analysis has not been conducted on the total estimates costs of HSE home care services. The HSE does however prepare an analysis of the hourly cost of home support services on a monthly basis. YTD April 2023 the cost of a Home Support hour delivered by HSE directly employed Healthcare Support Assistants (HCSAs) is €28.92, this includes €22.84 per hour for staff costs for HCSAs including basic pay, overtime, premium hours and employer PRSI.

The HSE pay scale for a Health Care Support Assistant ranges from €31,723 to €40,738, equating to basic rate per hour of €15.64 to €20.09 per hour (assumed 39 hour working week).

In relation to PQ 23/22764; the cost of increasing rates of pay for Health Care Support Assistants (working for Home Support Providers and not the HSE) to the Living Wage of €13.10 per hour is €26m. The pay rates for Home Support Providers varies with some providers already paying rates in line with or above the Living Wage however the HSE does not hold this data. The HSE pay scale for Health Care Support Assistants is set out above in Response to PQ 23/22765

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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