



**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.

T: 00353 (0) 61 483369  
Suíomh Gréasáin/Website: <http://www.hse.ie>

7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie](mailto:michael.moynihan@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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: 24922/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 1 May 2023 or the latest date available, in tabular form; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; the number waiting 0-3 months; the number waiting 3-6 months; the number waiting 6-12 months; and the number waiting 12 months plus.*

**PQ: 24923/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area as of 1 May 2023 or the latest date available, in tabular form; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; the number waiting 0-3 months; the number waiting 3-6 months; the number waiting 6-12 months; and the number waiting 12 months plus.*

**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 delivery of Services over the last few years has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. While services are fully operational, there may be reduced capacity in some areas due to necessary infection prevention and control requirements and all decisions made regarding the provision of services to an individual must be based on individual risk assessments and in line with public health guidance.

The delivery of PA and Home Support Services remained steady during 2022; PA Services was above the National Service Plan target by +2.7% and Home Support Services was +8% above target for the year. The figures for quarter 1, 2023 were also largely in line with national targets and are provided below.

Please see Tables 1 and 2 below which gives end of Quarter 1, 2023 information. Data is provided quarterly one month in arrears so this is the most recent information.

Table 1 - 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)
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,630</b>		<b>432,279</b>
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 2 – 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)
<b>National Total</b>	<b>6,226</b>		<b>730,876</b>
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



## **Waiting Lists**

Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

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.

## **Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT)**

The HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent. The DSMAT provides a consistent listing process for each CHO Area by presenting a detailed profile of the individuals (Adults & Children) who require funded supports outside of the current service quantum.

It captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals, including specialised profiles of behavioural intensity, key diagnoses, and complex support needs due to the extent and intensity of intellectual and/or physical & sensory disability.

It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services subject to budgetary constraints. This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

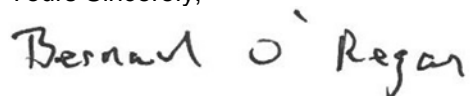
The most recent information available, which is a demand profile, outside of current service quantum, shows that there are 1,997 applications for Non-Residential Services, such as PA, Home Support and Respite Services.

## **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,



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

