



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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20 June 2023

Deputy Patricia Ryan,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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 25333/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of intensive home support packages that have been delivered to date; the number of intensive homecare hours that have been delivered to date 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 is based on an assessment of the person's needs by the HSE, having regard to the available resources and the 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. Waiting lists for Home Support have become a feature of the service, now primarily associated with an increasing capacity issue related to the availability of care staff. In terms of those waiting, priority is given to those in the community with acute needs and to those assessed and waiting in acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports. Funding approval for Home Support for those assessed as requiring same is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times.

The year to date position as at the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 shows that **66,389** intensive homecare package hours were provided nationally to **80** IHCP clients.

Yours sincerely,

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