



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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14 March 2024

Deputy Darren O' Rourke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O' Rourke,

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: 23/46502

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of carers employed by the HSE in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, in tabular form; 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 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. Recruitment and retention of home support staff for both direct and indirect service provision remains a significant challenge leading to capacity issues cross the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs).

The overall Home Support resource and the range of approved providers, including HSE directly employed staff, is carefully managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each Community Healthcare Organisation, to ensure that this key service is available at the required times, in a flexible way and at the appropriate standard to support clients' assessed needs.

Appendix 1 - Provides a breakdown of the number of Healthcare Support Assistants (HCSAs) employed at December 2020 – December 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light grey background behind it.

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

Appendix 1 - Provides a breakdown of the number of Healthcare Support Assistants (HCSAs) employed at December 2020 – December 2023.

HSE Direct - Health Care Support Assistants

Health Care Support Assistants(formerly Home Helps) Community Healthcare Organisation	Category	Dec-20	Dec-21	Dec-22	Dec-23
Total Directly Employed Home Helps / HCSAs	Headcount	5,268	5,195	5,306	5,091