



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin,
An Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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Community Health Organisation
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14th September, 2023

Mr. Fergus O'Dowd T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question - 37659/23

To ask the Minister for Health to urgently review the decision by the HSE to recommend that home care givers (details supplied) cease taking clients for much-needed walks as part of the service provided in the CHO8, considering that in many cases these walks are essential for people with no other way of getting out for exercise or fresh air and the obvious knock on well-being impact, in particular for clients that are elderly or have limited mobility; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

Home Support Services for Older Persons aged 65 and over, provide personal care assistance and have a prescribed task list such as washing , dressing, shaving, getting a person up and dressed or back to bed, assistance with toileting, assistance with preparing a light meal or snack, prompting/supervision to eat and drink and prompting/supervision to take medications. The current Older Persons Home Support Service model does not include social care tasks such as walking or activities outside of a person's home.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Broadbank
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation