



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.

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19th September 2023

Deputy Michael Moynihan,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: 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: 39440/23

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

PQ: 39439/23

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



While there is no centrally maintained waiting list for PA and Home Support services, the local HSE CHO areas are aware of the needs in their respective areas and work with the local Service Providers to respond within the resources available.

Activity Data for 2023

As per the National Service Plan 2023, the HSE is committed to deliver an additional 70,370 personal assistant hours to expand and enhance the supports for people to live self-directed lives in the community. The figures for Quarter 2, 2023 are in line with national targets and are provided below.

Please see Tables 8 and 9 below which gives end of Quarter 2, 2023 information. Data is provided quarterly one month in arrears so this is the most recent information available for 2023.

Table 8 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 2, 2023

CHO	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
	2023 (up to end Quarter 2)		2023 (Quarter 2)
National Total	2,708		850,298
CHO Area 1	76		28,452
CHO Area 2	559		178,896
CHO Area 3	470		165,688
CHO Area 4	464		68,290
CHO Area 5	334		78,430
CHO Area 6	116		36,713
CHO Area 7	87		38,827
CHO Area 8	381		111,229
CHO Area 9	221		143,772

Table 9 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 2, 2023

CHO	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
	2023 (up to end Quarter 2)		2023 (Quarter 2)
National Total	6,500		1,741,307
CHO Area 1	535		179,335
CHO Area 2	603		137,490
CHO Area 3	653		178,769
CHO Area 4	715		128,434
CHO Area 5	744		176,323
CHO Area 6	459		165,089
CHO Area 7	901		221,209
CHO Area 8	881		335,145
CHO Area 9	1,009		219,513

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.

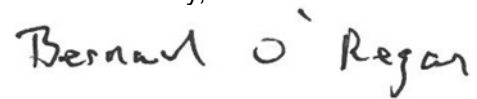


Future Planning

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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

