



05 October 2023

Cian O' Callaghan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O' Callaghan,

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 40579/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support services hours currently provided by each CHO area; 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 and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services.

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. In the context of increasing demand, priority is given to those being discharged from acute hospitals who are in a position to return home with supports and to those in the community with acute needs. Funding approval is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times. While there may be delays between the approval of funding and the availability of carers to commence delivery of home support hours in certain regions, significant work is underway to address these challenges. The HSE advertises on an ongoing basis for Health Care Assistants (Home Support) and recruits as many suitable candidates where possible.

The most up to date 2023 activity reflects the year to date period of 31st of July. Please note that July ytd activity is incomplete due to a data gap from one LHO. Data is preliminary and may be subject to change. On 31st July 2023, the total number of people assessed and waiting on funding approval was **zero**, while the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at **6,061**.

Appendix 1 details the breakdown of Home Support hour's activity at CHO level at the point in time position as at 31st July 2023 YTD) period (preliminary data).



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



Appendix 1:

Home Support hour's activity at CHO level at the point in time position as at 31st July 2023 (YTD) period (preliminary data).

CHO Summary YTD	Total
National Total	12,407,997
CHO 1	1,406,050
CHO 2	1,266,240
CHO 3	1,096,205
CHO 4	1,553,762
CHO 5	1,108,905
CHO 6	1,083,021
CHO 7	1,379,720
CHO 8	1,481,687
CHO 9	2,032,407