



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Uirlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

9th April 2024

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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: 14457/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 1 April 2024 or latest date available; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting less than 6, 6-12, 12-18 and the number waiting more than 18 months, in tabular form.

PQ: 14458/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance Hours in each LHO area as of 1 April 2024 or latest date available; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting less than 6, 6-12, 12-18 and the number waiting more than 18 months, in tabular form.

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.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Table 1 below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2014 - 2022. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

Table 1: Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014-2022

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,335,759	1,482,492	1,510,116	1,516,727	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309	1,746,136
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,930,000	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164

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 HSE is also committed to delivering 3.12 million hours of Home Support Services to 7,326 people.

Please see Tables 1 and 2 below which give end of 2023 information. Data is provided quarterly one month in arrears. This is the most recent data available at this time. The total number of people in receipt of PA is 2,728, which is ahead of NSP target of 2,690. The number of Home Support hours delivered (3,544,938) is 13.6% ahead of NSP target of 3,120,000.

Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2023 *

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2023	2023
National Total	2,728	1,686,227
CHO Area 1	86	59,405
CHO Area 2	576	357,895
CHO Area 3	474	339,469
CHO Area 4	458	124,209
CHO Area 5	371	156,605
CHO Area 6	119	72,760
CHO Area 7	96	77,251
CHO Area 8	322	207,919
CHO Area 9	226	290,714



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

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2023	2023
National Total	7,026	3,544,938
CHO Area 1	887	366,637
CHO Area 2	586	264,128
CHO Area 3	638	382,751
CHO Area 4	717	250,267
CHO Area 5	945	396,100
CHO Area 6	446	338,030
CHO Area 7	878	447,973
CHO Area 8	912	547,595
CHO Area 9	1,017	551,456

* It should be noted that we had a number of non-returns for PA/ and Home Support metrics due to the Industrial Action. Notwithstanding these non-returns, the figures indicate that we are largely meeting or exceeding NSP targets.

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.

National Service Plan 2024

As per the National Service Plan 2024, the HSE will:

- Improve the delivery of a range of specialist community-based disability services and increase service capacity for people with a disability throughout life in the areas of day, respite, multidisciplinary, residential, home support, neuro-rehabilitation and personal assistant services using the resources available, including:
- Delivery of additional personal assistant hours to support persons with a disability in their own communities, within available funding.

With regard to personal assistant services, expected activity for 2024, as per the 2024 Service Plan, is 1.85 million PA service hours to be delivered to 2,740 adults with a physical and / or sensory disability. With regard to Home Support, expected activity for 2024, as per the 2024 Service Plan, is 3.48m hours to be delivered to 7,326 people with disabilities.

In addition, the 2024 Service Plan references that a new HSE-led Disability Services procurement framework for home support is planned to be developed and agreed in Q2 2024. Targets may be adjusted accordingly.

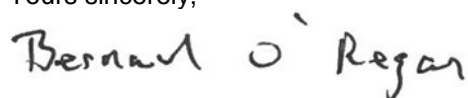
Future Planning

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.

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024 – 2026 advises that 800,000 extra PA hours and 110,000 extra hours a year is required by 2026 to address shortfall in services and to support individuals with disabilities to live a fuller more independent life and participate in normal activities in the community, in line with UNCRPD Article 19.

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,



Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director, Disability Services Team

