



08 March 2024

Deputy Robert Troy
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Troy,

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 5642/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home help hours sanctioned or approved and waiting on a service provider in each CHO region.

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. 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.

On 31 December 2023, the total number of people assessed and waiting on funding approval was **0**, while the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at **5,863**. Of the **5,863** waiting on a carer to be assigned, **3,067** are new clients and **2,796** are existing clients waiting on additional hours.

Appendix 1 shows the number of Clients assessed and waiting on a carer for Home Support Services by CHO at the point in time date 31st December 2023. Please note data is preliminary and may be subject to change.

In relation to your query around how many sanctioned hours have been approved and waiting on a carer, please note that the HSE does not collect this information nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this at a national level. In addition, the HSE aims to provide a home support service to all those assessed as requiring same and endeavours to meet its obligations in the shortest timeframe given the ongoing resourcing constraints being experienced throughout the sector.



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisiúnta Cúnta –
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísi do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1 – Home Support Waiting List – Clients assessed and waiting on a carer for Home Support Services by CHO at the 31st December 2023.

WAITING LIST - DECEMBER 2023			
Carers			
CHO	New	Additional	Total
National Total	3,067	2,796	5,863
CHO 1	268	364	632
CHO 2	385	436	821
CHO 3	281	480	761
CHO 4	909	491	1,400
CHO 5	232	645	877
CHO 6	82	153	235
CHO 7	398	8	406
CHO 8	494	218	712
CHO 9	18	1	19