



23rd May 2024.

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 7266/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer at the end of January of each year 2019-2024, inclusive; and the breakdown by length of wait, in tabular form. -David Cullinane.

PQ: 7267/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of January of each year 2019-2024. -David Cullinane.

PQ: 7303/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer at the end of each month of each year 2019-2023, inclusive; the breakdown by length of wait, in tabular form. -David Cullinane.

PQ: 7304/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of each month of each year 2019-2023. -David Cullinane.

PQ 15432/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer at the end of each quarter of each year 2019-2024, inclusive in tabular form; and the breakdown, by length of wait. -David Cullinane.

PQ: 15433/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of each quarter of each year 2019-2024. -David Cullinane.

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.

Available waiting list data reflects those that have been assessed and waiting for the provision of Home Support. Please see **Appendix 1** which details the number of clients assessed and waiting for Home Support Services. As of this date the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at 5,708. Of the 5,708 waiting on a carer to be assigned, 2,716 are new clients and 2,992 are existing clients waiting on additional service.

At present activity data in relation to the average length of waiting time is not collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally. By their very nature, Home Support waiting lists reflect a point in time. Given the finite resources available within Home Support services, waiting list management processes must take into account the HSEs prioritisation procedures, wherein those whose clinically assessed needs are greater than others, are prioritised for service. In light of these parameters, providing an average time frame a person remains on the waiting list would ultimately provide an inaccurate view of the Home Support waiting list in its totality.

Yours sincerely,



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

Appendix 1. Details the number of clients assessed and waiting for Home Support Services for each month in each year from 31st January 2018 to 31st March 2024.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Carers

CHO	Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2024	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	5,532	5,557	5,708	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2023	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	6,362	6,234	6,432	6,166	6,198	6,020	6,061	5,986	6,160	6,127	5,689	5,863
2022	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	4,933	4,677	5,251	5,139	5,020	5,460	5,599	6,084	6,255	6,103	6,063	6,673
2021	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	2,836	3,084	3,014	3,327	3,265	3,545	4,389	4,534	4,933	4,968	4,975	5,322
2020	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	1,342	1,544	1,375	1,253	1,197	1,389	1,718	1,741	2,226	2,514	2,507	2,736
2019	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	1,576	1,528	1,737	1,669	1,584	1,538	1,399	1,375	1,394	1,415	1,462	1,539
2018	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	1,353	1,326	1,356	1,205	1,229	1,422	1,530	1,656	1,458	1,634	1,556	1,618