



**Oifig an Stiúirthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,**  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,  
Àras 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.

11<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Deputy Denis Naughton  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [denis.naughton@oireachtas.ie](mailto:denis.naughton@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Naughton,

The Health Service Executive 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: 29157/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of persons with disabilities who received home support hours, by CHO, in 2023 and 2024; the number of persons with disabilities in 2023 and 2024 who received personal assistance hours, by CHO, in 2023 and 2024; the total number of hours provided in each category, by CHO, in 2023 and 2024; the target number of hours for each category in each CHO for 2023 and 2024, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**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 - 2023. 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 2014-2023**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>PA Services – Number of Hours</b>	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	1,686,227
<b>PA Services – No. People availing of service</b>	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669	2,728
<b>Home Support – Number of Hours</b>	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	3,544,938
<b>Home Support – No. People availing of service</b>	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164	7,026

**Activity Data for 2023**

As per the National Service Plan 2023, the HSE 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 also committed to delivering 3.12 million hours of Home Support Services to 7,326 people. See Table 2 below.

The total number of people in receipt of PA in 2023 is 2,728, which is ahead of NSP target of 2,690. The number of Home Support hours delivered in 2023 (3,544,938) is 13.6% ahead of NSP target of 3,120,000. The number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services in 2023 is 7,026 adults. See Table 3 below.

Table 2- 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
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>1,686,227</b>
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 3 – 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
<b>National Total</b>	<b>7,026</b>		<b>3,544,938</b>
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 current level of PA service includes an over 15% increase in PA hours totalling 270,370 hours in the National Service Plans since 2020 as follows:

- 2020 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2021 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2022 = 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2023 = 70,370 additional personal assistant hours.

#### Activity Data Quarter 1 2024: PA & Home Support Services

- PA hours delivered = 459,413 in Q1, which is -0.7% down on NSP target of 462,501. However, it is up 5.8% on SPLY reflecting the allocation in the NSP 2024 of additional personal assistant hours to support persons with a disability in their own communities.
- No. People in receipt of PA = 2,867, which is 4.6% ahead of NSP target of 2,740.
- Home Support hrs delivered = 951,427 which is 9.4% ahead of NSP target of 869,998 and 15% ahead of SPLY.
- No. People in receipt of HS = 7,023, which is down on NSP target of 7,326.

See Tables below.

Table 4- PA Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Q1 2024

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	Q1 2024		Q1 2024
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,867</b>		<b>459,413</b>
CHO Area 1	157		20,991
CHO Area 2	575		104,153
CHO Area 3	440		89,408
CHO Area 4	580		44,882



CHO Area 5	351		38,437
CHO Area 6	114		19,423
CHO Area 7	98		18,840
CHO Area 8	340		48,805
CHO Area 9	212		74,475

Table 5 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Quarter 1 2024

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	Q1 2024		Q1 2024
<b>National Total</b>	<b>7,023</b>		<b>951,427</b>
CHO Area 1	1,014		136,155
CHO Area 2	570		66,696
CHO Area 3	668		94,359
CHO Area 4	568		53,455
CHO Area 5	934		109,057
CHO Area 6	464		87,847
CHO Area 7	868		109,006
CHO Area 8	719		115,673
CHO Area 9	1,218		179,179

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.

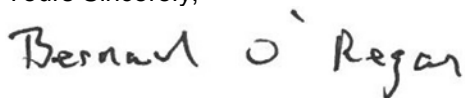
#### Future Planning

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.

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**  
**National Disability Team**

