



29th July 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 Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 30331/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists at the latest available data point for 2024; the number waiting on approval and for funding, in tabular form. -David Cullinane

PQ 30333/24

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 2023 and 2024 to date, in tabular form. -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.

Please note data is preliminary and may be subject to change. Appendix 1. Details on 31st May 2024, 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 **4,702**. Of those 4,702, 2,621 were existing clients waiting on additional hours to commence.

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 at the point in time of 31st May 2024.
- Appendix 2. Reflects the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of each quarter for 2023, this also show the number for the first quarter of 2024 and 31st May 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

Kathleen Jordan

Head of Service – Home Support

Services for Older People – Access and Integration

Appendix 1. Details the number of clients waiting on approval of care staff for home support services at 31st May 2024. Note number waiting on approval of funding as at 31st May 2024 was zero.

| Carers - Total [New & Additional] | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| CHO | Description | May-24 |
| National Total | | 4,702 |
| CHO1 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 674 |
| CHO2 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 261 |
| CHO3 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 752 |
| CHO4 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 1,160 |
| CHO5 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 851 |
| CHO6 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 285 |
| CHO7 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 288 |
| CHO8 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | 431 |
| CHO9 | Waiting on Carers - New & Additional | - |

Appendix 2. Reflects the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of each quarter for 2023, this also show the number for the first quarter of 2024 and 31st May 2024.

| Carers - Additional | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| CHO | Description | Mar-23 | Jun-23 | Sep-23 | Dec-23 | Mar-24 | May-24 |
| National Total | | 2,908 | 2,945 | 2,904 | 2,796 | 2,992 | 2,621 |
| CHO1 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 382 | 390 | 400 | 364 | 351 | 362 |
| CHO2 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 348 | 435 | 380 | 436 | 483 | 161 |
| CHO3 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 376 | 312 | 424 | 480 | 531 | 520 |
| CHO4 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 590 | 581 | 615 | 491 | 461 | 444 |
| CHO5 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 654 | 716 | 654 | 645 | 687 | 730 |
| CHO6 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 240 | 173 | 160 | 153 | 120 | 130 |
| CHO7 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 33 | 48 | 34 | 8 | - | - |
| CHO8 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 247 | 257 | 220 | 218 | 355 | 274 |
| CHO9 | Waiting on Carers - Additional Service | 38 | 33 | 17 | 1 | 4 | - |