



23rd 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 30407/24

To ask the Minister for Health the cost of 1,000,000 home support hours. -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, however there may be delays between the approval of funding and the commencement of service delivery, particularly in certain regions due to carer availability.

The HSE is funded to deliver home support services in line with NSP 2024. As of 31st May 2024 YTD (latest available preliminary data), **9,406,331** Home Support hours were delivered nationally to **53,379** people, an increase of +7.9% in the number of hours delivered when compared to the same period last year. On 31st May 2024, the total number of people assessed and waiting on funding to be allocated 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**, **2,081** were new client on waiting list and **2,621** were existing clients waiting on additional hours to commence.

The projected full year cost of providing an additional 1,000,000 home support hours would cost in the region of **€33m**.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan
Head of Service – Home Support
Services for Older People – Access and Integration