



9th July 2024

**Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Conway- Walsh,

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 26665/24

To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of home support hours delivered by health care assistants directly employed by the HSE in each year since 2011, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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.

From 1st January 2018, with the approval of the Department of Health, the funding for both the former Home Help Service and the Home Care Package Scheme was combined into a single service now known as the Home Support Service for Older People. With effect from the same date, home support activity reflects the total hours and clients across the Home Support Service for Older People, being the totality of the amalgamated former Home Help Service and Home Care Package Scheme.

Available data relates to 2018 to date and reflects the delivery for the provision of Home Support by staff directly employed by the HSE. Please see **Appendix 1** which details home support hours delivered by health care assistants directly employed by the HSE in each year from 2018 to the latest available YTD data as at 31st May 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

Kathleen Jordan

Head of Service – Home Support

Services for Older People – Access and Intergration

Appendix 1 which details home support hours delivered by health care assistants directly employed by the HSE in each year from 2018 to the latest available data YTD as at 31st May 2024.

CHO	Description	2024			2023			2022			2021		
		Total	Direct	% Direct	Total	Direct	% Direct	Total	Direct	% Direct	Total	Direct	% Direct
	Total Hours Delivered	9,406,331	3,505,422	37.3%	22,115,738	8,231,341	37.2%	20,792,772	8,041,206	38.7%	20,462,993	7,506,319	36.7%

CHO	Description	2020			2019			2018		
		Total	Direct	% Direct	Total	Direct	% Direct	Total	Direct	% Direct
	Total Hours Delivered	17,554,181	7,301,743	41.6%	17,484,366	7,693,496	44.0%	17,130,453	7,506,958	43.8%