



21<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

Deputy Richard Bruton,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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 13524/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of man hours allocated to provide home help and homecare services; and the number of persons receiving those services in 2000, 2010, 2020 and allocated for 2024.**

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.

Latest available preliminary activity reflects the period up to the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. As of this date, 7,499,581 hours were delivered to 55,544 people nationally. As of the same 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 were clients waiting on a new service, and 2,992 were already in receipt of a service but waiting on additional hours. As of same date, the number of people assessed for Home Support and waiting on funding approval has remained at zero since June 2023.

With regard to your request to receive historical Home Support data from the year 2000, please note that it will not be possible to provide same prior to the year 2012. The data requested is not readily available for that time period and in this circumstance, the available data relates to the period 2012, 2020 and allocated in 2024, as detailed at Appendix 1 to this correspondence, noting caveats therein.

Yours sincerely,

---

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



## Appendix 1 – Home Support Activity Data – 2012, 2020 & April 2024 YTD Inclusive

Home Support Activity - 2012, 2020 & April 2024 YTD			
Description	2024*	2020	2012**
Home Support Hours Target	7,269,884	18,670,000	-
Home Support Hours Delivered	7,499,581	17,554,181	9,887,727
Home Support Clients in Receipt	55,544	52,881	45,705

*\* 2024 data reflects the period from January 2024 to 30th April 2024. This data is preliminary in nature and subject to change.*

*\*\* Note that prior to the implementation of the single funded Home Support service 2018, Home Support services were split via Home Help Hours and Homecare Packages. Additionally, please note that the target for Home Help Hours in 2012 is not available.*