



**CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL  
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE**

CABHÁN DÚN NA NGALL LIATROIM MUINEACHÁN SLIGEACH  
CAVAN DONEGAL LEITRIM MONAGHAN SLIGO

Oifig an Bainisteoir Ginearálta,  
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Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2.

7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**PQ ref 39085/24**

*"To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons currently on the waiting list for healthcare assistants/home support workers in County Donegal, in tabular form."*

Dear Deputy MacLochlainn

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please see below in tabular form the number of Older Persons Services clients in Co. Donegal who are awaiting a new home support service or an increase in their current package of care.

Type of Service	No of Clients	Hours Per week
New Referral	198	1247
Increase in Service	111	683
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>1930</b>

Despite the notable increased level of service provision by the Donegal Home Support Service year on year, the demand for home support services is also growing significantly. There is currently in the region of 670 HSE Home Care Assistants (HCAs) employed across the county, an increase of almost 200 between 2022 and May 2024. Direct delivery of home care by the HSE Home Support Service in Co. Donegal remains at around 90%, which is unparalleled compared to all other areas of the country.

The escalation in the waiting list is due to numerous factors, such as an increased need based on an aging population in Co. Donegal, number of under 65s requiring a service and the complexity of client need amongst community-based clients. Emerging trends, such as a fourth daily visits; staff double-ups and increased packages of care compared to previous years, are further evidence of the extent to which clients are retained at home in Donegal in spite of high levels of dependency.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the Donegal Home Support Service remains committed and resolute to ensure that a comprehensive and inclusive service is available for older people in the county.



I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Callan'.

General Manager,  
Services for Older Persons,  
Community Healthcare, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Cavan & Sligo,  
Breffni Care Centre,  
Ballyconnell,  
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