



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisunta Cúnta,
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta –
Rochtain & Comhtháthú

Aonad 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tullach Mhór, Co Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

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2nd October 2024

**Deputy Peadar Tóibín,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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 36596/24

To ask the Minister for Health the amount paid, on average, to homecare agencies by the HSE for one hour of care to a patient. - Peadar Tóibín

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. Recruitment and retention of Home Support staff for both direct and indirect service provision remains a significant challenge leading to capacity issues cross the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs).

The Home Support Service is managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each Community Healthcare Organisation to ensure that this key service is available at the required times, in a flexible way and at the appropriate standard to support clients' assessed needs.

In 2023 the existing competitive tender system for the contracting of Home Support hours from external companies (indirect service provision/hours) was replaced with an Authorisation Scheme (AS) which facilitates new entrants over the life time of the Scheme with a view to extending capacity. It provides for fixed pricing and a common framework for the delivery of Home Support Services, with an initial term of 24 months but can potentially remain open-ended.

Under the terms of the Home Support AS, the fixed rate for core service delivered by Approved Providers (indirect service providers) appointed to the Scheme, during the hours of 8am to 10pm Monday to Saturday is €31.47. The corresponding non-core rate stands at €39.33 and applies from 8am to 10pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Please see Appendix 1 below for information on the current rates applicable to the Home Support AS.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patricia Whelehan'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Patricia Whelehan
AND Services for Older People
National Office, Access and Integration



Appendix 1 - Home Support Authorisation Scheme Rates effective from 1st August 2024

		1st August 2024
Monday - Saturday	Call Duration	New Rate
Day Rate 8am to 10pm	60 min	€31.47
Night Rate 10pm to 8am	60 min	€26.68
Sunday / Bank Holiday	Call Duration	New Rate
Day Rate 8am to 10pm	60min	€39.33
Night Rate 10pm to 8am	60min	€32.61