



29th April, 2025

Deputy Martin Kenny,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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: 16818/25

To ask the Minister for Health for a breakdown, by county, on the monthly basis from January 1 2024 to 31 December 2024, of how many staff providing homecare services working for the HSE are not working their full contract hours; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Kenny

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 aims to enable older people to continue living in their own homes with confidence, security and dignity, and the Government has stated its aim to improve community-based services to make this possible. There is a recognition that for many older people who need support, their preferred option is to remain at home for as long as possible. Home support 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 competing demands for the service.

Home Support Services for Older People are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private providers who have formal service arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services.

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. The overall Home Support resource, to include HSE directly employed staff and the range of Approved Providers, is carefully managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each Regional Health Area, 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.

The latest available activity data reflects the period to 28th February 2025. As of this date, there were 4,885 Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) employed with the HSE nationally. Due to the nature of the service many staff work part-time hours. Please see Table 1 hereunder for a breakout of this data by CHO. Please note that the data requested in relation to "*how many staff providing homecare services working for the HSE are not working their full contract hours*", is held locally and not currently collated nationally.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan
Head of Service
Services for Older People, Access and Integration

Table 1. HCA directly employed by the HSE by CHO.

Home Support Staffing – Healthcare assistant (Home Support) Directly Employed*

		Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
CHO	HCA	5,056	5,067	5,077	5,087	5,104	5,057	5,055	5,024	4,995	4,969	4,967	4,933
CHO1	HCA (Headcount)	987	997	1,018	1,030	1,048	1,040	1,058	1,060	1,056	1,058	1,066	1,051
CHO2	HCA (Headcount)	486	488	489	484	486	480	479	476	469	468	465	464
CHO3	HCA (Headcount)	526	522	521	518	518	514	508	516	513	511	510	503
CHO4	HCA (Headcount)	1,471	1,470	1,466	1,468	1,470	1,456	1,443	1,416	1,412	1,396	1,394	1,397
CHO5	HCA (Headcount)	810	811	811	814	811	803	806	797	787	788	786	778
CHO6	HCA (Headcount)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHO7	HCA (Headcount)	172	171	171	171	171	167	168	167	165	162	162	159
CHO8	HCA (Headcount)	604	608	601	602	600	597	593	592	593	586	584	581
CHO9	HCA (Headcount)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Note: Home Support Services across CHO 6 and CHO 9 are delivered by external Home Support Providers.*