



19th May, 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 19827/25

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of care hours that were cancelled in 2023 and 2024 and the associated saving to the HSE, per integrated healthcare area, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

PQ: 19828/25

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of care hours provided, per integrated healthcare area, in 2023 and 2024, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock

Home Support aims to enable people to continue to live in their own homes with confidence, security and dignity. 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 available resources and competing demands for the services.

The population is ageing, with the latest population projections indicating a 38% increase in the over 65-years population and 68% increase in the over 85 years population by 2031. Data from the ESRI 'Demand for Statutory Home Support Scheme' Report 2021 indicate that up to 8 million additional hours of home support may be required in less than 10 years to meet the increased demand from people with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) difficulties who may have previously relied on unpaid and family care. (ESRI, 2021).

Demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, 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 type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centered personal care model. The Home Support Service is managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each Community Healthcare Organisation/Health Region 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.

Please see Appendix 1 below which sets out the total number of Home Support hours provided in the years requested.

In addition, please note that data in relation to the "*total number of care hours that were cancelled in 2023 and 2024 and associated saving to the HSE*", is not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally within the Health Regions, it would take considerable resources to produce data on same nationally.

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1. Details the total number of Home Support hours provided in 2024 and 2023.

			2024	2023
RHA	Health Region		Total	Total
National Total			23,762,774	22,115,738
RHA A	HSE Dublin and North East		4,329,216	4,147,991
RHA B	HSE Dublin and Midlands		1,878,282	1,905,399
RHA C	HSE Dublin and South East		3,148,597	2,810,156
RHA D	HSE South West		4,089,592	3,872,598
RHA E	HSE Mid West		4,397,663	3,864,918
RHA F	HSE West and North West		5,919,424	5,514,676