



20th May, 2025

Deputy Natasha Newsome Drennan,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Newsome Drennan,

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: 20260/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of home helps employed on contracts of less than 18.5 hours per week, in each CHO region, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Natasha Newsome Drennan

PQ: 20259/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of home helps employed by the HSE that are on permanent contracts, and the number on non-permanent contracts, in each CHO region, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Natasha Newsome Drennan

PQ: 20258/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of home helps employed, the nuance of vacancies, if there are plans to hire additional numbers, her views on the optimal number to be employed in this critical service, in each CHO region, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Natasha Newsome Drennan

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.

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 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.

The latest available activity data reflects the period to 31st March 2025. As of this date, there were 4,865 Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) employed with the HSE nationally. Due to the nature of the service many staff work part-time hours. Please note that data requested in relation to "*the current number of home helps employed by the HSE that are on permanent contracts, and the number on non-permanent contracts*" is held locally and not currently collated nationally. Please see Table 1 hereunder for a breakout of this data by Health Region

With regard to recruitment of direct Home Support staff, the HSE conducts local rolling recruitment campaigns across the Health Regions. In June 2023, the HSE launched an action orientated Resourcing Strategy to help address the future workforce needs of the HSE. This programme of work has been developed with and by the services. It is driven by 5 professional led service groups, one of which is focused on Patient Client Care and Support Grades to include home support workers. The Strategy is available at the following web-link: - [HSE Resourcing Strategy 2023](#).

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1: total number of Healthcare Assistants employed with the HSE by Health Region;

**Home Support Staffing
Healthcare Assistant (Home Support) Directly Employed Staff**

| Health Region | | Mar-25 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| National Total | | Headcount |
| RHA A | HSE Dublin & North East | 4,865 |
| RHA B | HSE Dublin & Midlands | 414 |
| RHA C | HSE Dublin & South East | 490 |
| RHA D | HSE South West | 760 |
| RHA E | HSE Mid West | 1,377 |
| RHA F | HSE West & North West | 495 |
| | | 1,329 |