



19<sup>th</sup> May, 2025

Deputy Paul Lawless,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Lawless,

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: 20735/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number on the waiting list for home help nationwide; the amount her Department is spending on private agencies to provide cover; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Paul Lawless**

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 preliminary data reflects the period to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. As of this date, no people were waiting on funding to be allocated. As of the same date, 4,888 people were assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned, 2,195 were new service users while 2,693 were already in receipt of home support but waiting on additional hours to commence. Please see appendix below with requested data set out by Health Region.

In 2023, the HSE completed a tendering process and established a Home Support Authorisation Scheme for the provision of home support services, which commenced in August 2023. Following the successful completion of two Rounds of the Scheme, 100 individual companies are currently appointed to the Authorisation Scheme across the Health Regions. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March YTD circa 65% of service nationally is delivered via external providers who have service arrangements with the HSE for the delivery of the services.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Appendix 1: Total number of service users on the Waiting List for Home Support by Health Regions**

<b>RHA</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>YTD Reporting</b>
<b>National Total</b>		<b>4,888</b>
<b>RHA A</b>	HSE Dublin and North East	<b>672</b>
<b>RHA B</b>	HSE Dublin and Midlands	<b>504</b>
<b>RHA C</b>	HSE Dublin and South East	<b>702</b>
<b>RHA D</b>	HSE South West	<b>950</b>
<b>RHA E</b>	HSE Mid West	<b>763</b>
<b>RHA F</b>	HSE West and North West	<b>1,297</b>