



19th May, 2025

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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: 21525/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer for Quarter 1 of each year 2019, 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; and the breakdown, by length of wait. - David Cullinane

PQ: 21527/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer for March of each year 2019, 2024 and 2025 in tabular form; and the breakdown by length of wait. -David Cullinane

PQ: 21526/25 & 21528/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of Quarter 1 of each year 2019, 2024 and 2025. -David Cullinane

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.

The latest available preliminary data reflects the period to 31st 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 note data is preliminary in nature and subject to change.*

In addition, please note that data in relation to “*breakdown by length of wait*”, 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.

Please see appendices below with requested data set out by Health Region.

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1: The number of Service Users waiting for a Carer in Quarter 1 in 2019, 2024 and 2025

Home Support Waiting List – Waiting on Carers

RHA	Description	Jan	Feb	Mar
2025	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	4,826	5,119	4,888
2024	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	5,530	5,557	5,708
2019	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	1,576	1,528	1,737

Appendix 2: The number of Service users waiting on Additional Services in Quarter 1 in 2019, 2024 and 2025

2025;

RHA	Description	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
National Total		2,701	2,780	2,693
RHA A	HSE Dublin and North East	189	463	438
RHA B	HSE Dublin and Midlands	82	46	146
RHA C	HSE Dublin and South East	628	509	473
RHA D	HSE South West	390	373	379
RHA E	HSE Mid West	536	514	561
RHA F	HSE West and North West	876	875	696

2024;

RHA	Description	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
National Total		2,850	2,929	2,992
RHA1	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	563	628	627
RHA2	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	502	519	531
RHA3	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	440	429	461
RHA4	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	722	820	807
RHA5	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	243	164	204
RHA6	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	380	369	362

2019;

RHA	Description	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19
National Total		499	495	600
RHA1	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	14	12	12
RHA2	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	104	44	52
RHA3	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	100	77	104
RHA4	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	156	225	273
RHA5	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	52	64	87
RHA6	Waiting on Carers - Additional Service	73	73	72