



19th February 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 was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 3506/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer for December of each year 2019, 2023, and 2024 and for January 2025, in tabular form; and the breakdown by length of wait. -David Cullinane.

PQ: 3507/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours for December of each year 2019, 2023, and 2024 and for January 2025. -David Cullinane.

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.

Available waiting list data reflects those that have been assessed and waiting for the provision of Home Support as at 31st December 2024. As of this date, the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at 4,716; 2,111 were new clients and 2,605 were existing clients already in receipt of Home Support, but waiting on additional service to commence. Please note data for the year 2025 is not yet available.

Please see:

- Appendix 1: sets out the waiting list for carers as at 31st December in the years requested, (2019, 2023 and 2024).
- Appendix 2: details the number of clients, waiting on funding as at 31st December in the years requested, (2019, 2023 and 2024).
- Appendix 3: details the number of clients, in receipt of services awaiting additional home support hours for December of each year (2019, 2023, and 2024). Please note that is a subset of total number in each of the respective years.

****Please note 2024 data provided is preliminary in nature and may be subject to change.***

In regard to your request for "length of wait", please note that this data is not currently collated nationally.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

Head of Service

Services for Older People, Access and Integration

Appendix 1 Details the number of clients waiting on carers in the years requested, 2019, 2023 and 2024.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Carers				
CHO	Description	2024	2023	2019
National Total		4,716	5,863	1,539

Appendix 2 Details the number of clients, waiting on funding in the years requested, 2019, 2023 and 2024.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Funding				
CHO	Description	2024	2023	2019
National Total		840	-	7,819

Appendix 3 Details the number of clients awaiting additional services, for December of each year 2019, 2023, and 2024.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Carers				
CHO	Description	2024 Additional	2023 Additional	2019 Additional
National Total		2,605	2,796	423