

Head of Service for Older Persons
HSE South West
Health Service Executive
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Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS Iardheiscirt
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
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10th March 2025

Deputy Pat Buckley, T.D.,
Dail Eireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 7883/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that are waiting for homecare support in Cork east; the number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in Cork east; the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

By way of context, both nationally and within this region there has been a significant increase in the number of home support hours being delivered, but there has also been a significant increase in demand for home support. In tandem with the increased demand, workforce availability issues in the home support sector have meant that allocation of some support may have to be waitlisted for a time. Unfortunately we are constrained in that we can only deliver services within our available capacity.

124 people are currently waitlisted for home support services in Cork East. The below table sets out the number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in Cork East as well as the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant:

MONTH	HOURS ALLOCATED	AVERAGE HOURS GRANTED PER CLIENT
JANUARY	115	3.29
FEBRUARY	143	4.09
MARCH	144.75	4.52
APRIL	193.75	5.87
MAY	164.5	4.98
JUNE	78.75	3.28
JULY	242	5.9
AUGUST	167	5.39
SEPTEMBER	138.75	4.5
OCTOBER	305.25	5.65
NOVEMBER	123.75	3.64
DECEMBER	77.5	4.84
TOTAL	1894.00	4.66

Our wait list is made up of both clients who are awaiting a new service (i.e. currently are not in receipt of any service), and clients who are awaiting additional hours/part of the originally prescribed service (i.e. they are receiving some home support). Waiting lists are constantly being validated and significant work has been undertaken to address the

waiting list for home support throughout this region. Priority is given to those clients requiring discharge from hospital and with higher levels of dependency. The majority of clients who are prescribed Home Support have a service commence almost immediately. However, on occasion, part of the prescribed service may not be put in place - this would be predominantly down to lack of carer availability in the area.

HSE South West continues to work towards increasing Home Support provision and reducing waiting lists across the region; however, challenges are ongoing and well-documented nationally in relation to recruitment and retention of staff with certain areas experiencing increased pressures. Our population is growing and it is also ageing and this means that demand for home support services is projected to increase substantially. Improving access to home support is a service priority for HSE South West and, to this end, we continue to utilise all avenues to fulfil our service requirements.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons

