



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,
Limerick.

3rd March 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: padraig.rice@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Rice,

The Health Service Executive 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: 8438/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people on a waiting list for home support services provided by HSE disability services, by age, CHO and LHO, in tabular form.

PQ: 8439/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the current hourly direct cost and indirect cost of home support services for people living with a disability; and the total cost of direct and indirect delivery of this type of home care in each of the years from 2020 to 2024.

PQ: 8440/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the percentage split of home support services for people living with a disability between direct and indirect delivery.

HSE Response

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then



decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

There is no centrally maintained waiting list for these services. The local HSE CHO areas would be aware of the need and requirements in their respective areas and would work with the local Service Providers with a view to responding to the level of presenting needs within the resources available.

Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT)

HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which provides a list and detailed profiles of people (Adults & Children) who need additional funded supports in each CHO.

DSMAT captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals. This enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the CHO area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services, subject to budgetary constraints.

This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

Please see tables below - National Aggregation for 2019 to end of Quarter 2 2024.

The updated figures below represent a "point in time" analysis and may not include applications received in to the CHO but not yet processed onto the DSMAT tool. (This includes applications for Home support and /or other services such as PA and Day services.)

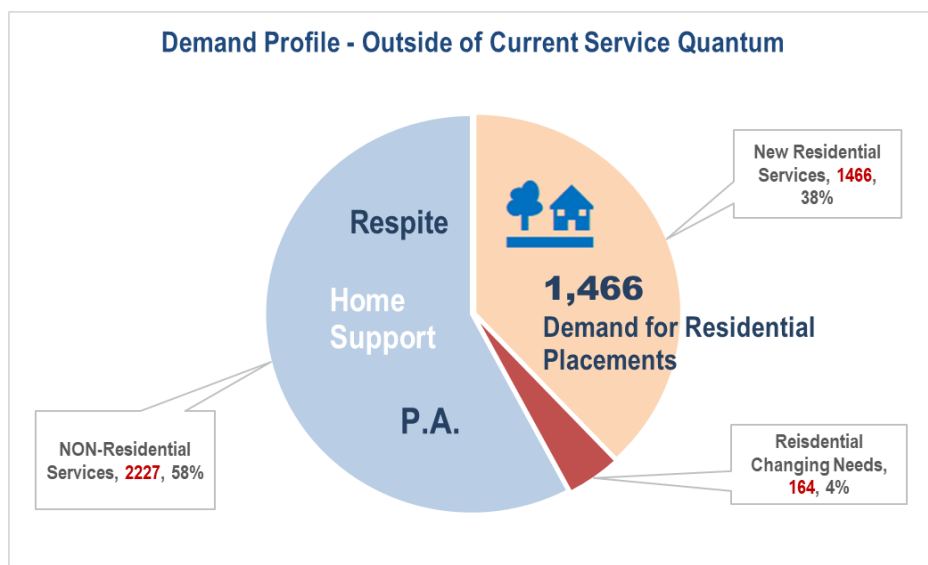
Applications for Non Residential Services

Table 1

Total Applicants: Personal Assistance and Home Support Services and Day Respite Services	Mid. Yr. 2019	Mid. Yr. 2020	Mid. Yr. 2021	Mid. Yr. 2022	Mid. Yr. 2023	End of Q2 2024
	1117	1619	1903	2142	2492	2,227

The pie chart below, provides an overview of the demand for services – outside of current service quantum. (most recent information available)





58% of applications for Disability Services are for Respite and or/Home Support and /or PA services.

In the normal course of service delivery, at local CHO level, there will be ongoing reviews throughout the year to ensure that if needs change the service provided will address this change within available resources. An individual's PA or Home Support hours may be adjusted following a service review where service demand can result in one individual's service being reduced in order to address priority needs of other people with disabilities within that community.

Currently, each CHO has a process to manage applications and referrals for PA and Home Support Services. While many individuals are adequately provided for by their current level of support, it is also the case that many would benefit from more support hours if they were available.

Service Provision

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities.

The table below shows the level of increased investment in PA and Home Support Services year on year. It is not possible to extrapolate Home support funding from the PA and Home Support funding.

Table 2

Service area	2018 Funding €000	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2021 Funding €000	2022 Funding €000	2023 Funding €000
PA & Home Support	80,957	84,909	94,885	100,613	109,809	115,191

As mentioned earlier, PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers. (indirect delivery)

The hourly cost for the provision of Home Support services is calculated on the new rate of €31.40 which includes the 1.4% increase which was in place from August 2024.

Table 3 provides data Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability at the end of Q3 2024. (This is the most recent data available)

Table 3

No. of Home Support Service Hours delivered to people with a disability (ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability)							
Reporting Level	Outturn Previous Year	Target/EA Full Year	Target/EA YTD	Activity YTD	% Var YTD V Tgt/EA YTD	Activity YTD SPLY	% Var YTD V SPLY
National	3,554,166	3,480,000	2,609,998	2,849,350	9.2%	2,646,590	7.7%
CHO 1	366,637	395,908	296,931	312,912	5.4%	270,882	15.5%
CHO 2	264,128	249,350	187,012	203,129	8.6%	198,209	2.5%
CHO 3	382,751	356,324	267,243	264,662	-1.0%	274,625	-3.6%
CHO 4	259,495	240,821	180,615	159,496	-11.7%	198,778	-19.8%
CHO 5	396,100	341,737	256,303	304,701	18.9%	285,034	6.9%
CHO 6	338,030	331,108	248,331	268,831	8.3%	252,731	6.4%
CHO 7	447,973	416,467	312,350	327,637	4.9%	333,647	-1.8%
CHO 8	547,595	624,988	468,740	461,489	-1.5%	443,390	4.1%
CHO 9	551,456	523,298	392,473	546,494	39.2%	389,294	40.4%
No of people with a disability in receipt of Home Support Services (ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability)							
National	6,421	7,326	7,326	6,624	-9.6%	6,644	-0.3%
CHO 1	674	844	844	269	-68.1%	652	-58.7%
CHO 2	525	637	637	629	-1.3%	590	6.6%
CHO 3	649	657	657	635	-3.4%	659	-3.6%
CHO 4	633	758	758	591	-22.0%	753	-21.5%
CHO 5	890	910	910	945	3.8%	912	3.6%
CHO 6	467	490	490	515	5.1%	490	5.1%
CHO 7	870	894	894	855	-4.3%	867	-1.4%
CHO 8	699	1,089	1,089	981	-9.9%	727	34.9%
CHO 9	1,014	1,047	1,047	1,204	15.0%	994	21.1%

The number of Home Support hours delivered were 2,849,350 hours to end Q3, which was 9.2% ahead of the NSP target and 7.7% ahead of the same period last year.

Future Planning

With regard to additional PA and Home Support Services, the Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review advises that up to €15 million per year by 2032 – equivalent to 600,000 additional hours - is needed to meet the requirements for Personal Assistants and Home Support.

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024 – 2026 advises that and 110,000 extra home support hours a year is required by 2026 to address shortfall in services and to support individuals with disabilities to live a fuller more independent life and participate in normal activities in the community, in line with UNCRPD Article 19.

Each CHO continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/ safeguarding risks, through active case-management and inter-agency cooperation



Yours Sincerely,

Bernard O'Regan
Assistant National Director,
Access and Integration,
National Disability Team

