

Head of Service for Older Persons
HSE South West - Health Service Executive
Caha House, Business & Technology Park
Model Farm Road
Cork Eircode: T12 XHT4

Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS Iardheiscirt - Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh
Tel: 021 4923854

10th March 2025

Deputy Padraig Rice, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 8477/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of hours on the waiting list for home support in CHO4 by LHO, in tabular form”.

PQ ref 8478/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people waiting for home support in CHO4 for longer than one month, longer than three months, longer than six months and longer than twelve months, in tabular form”.

Dear Deputy Rice,

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

Despite a significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support nationally and regionally continues to grow as the population aged over 65 increases. Provision of Home Support is a core service for older people and their families and is an essential service for thousands of people across the country. It is highly valued by service users and their families because it enables older people to live independently and with dignity in their own homes for longer. It also enables many older people to return home following acute hospital admission. For these reasons, improving access to this service is a Government and HSE priority.

If Home Support staff (HSE or private providers) are not available to deliver support, then the request for a home support service is waitlisted. With regard to **PQ ref 8477/25**, the below table sets out the number of hours on the waiting list for home support in HSE South West by LHO (*data as at end of January 2025*):

LHO	No. of Hours on Wait List (<i>end Jan 2025</i>)
South Lee	1762.6
West Cork	479.62
North Lee	594.4
North Cork	447.25
Kerry	282.9

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 in this region. Priority is given to those clients requiring discharge from hospital and with higher levels of dependency.

In relation to **PQ ref 8478/25**, the following table illustrates the number of people waiting for home support in HSE South West for longer than one month, longer than three months, longer than six months and longer than twelve months, in tabular form:

HSE SW:	Waiting Over 1 Month	Waiting Over 3 Months	Waiting Over 6 Months	Waiting Over 1 Year
No. of Clients	897	713	472	226

Our population is growing and it is also ageing and this means that demand for home support services is projected to increase substantially. 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. 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 and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons