



14th March 2025

Deputy Pádraig Rice,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Rice,

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: 8479/25

To ask the Minister for Health the CHOs which underwent cost containment for home support services in 2024 (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig Rice

PQ: 8481/25

To ask the Minister for Health the total amount of funding spent by each CHO on home support in each month of 2023 and 2024, in tabular form. -Pádraig Rice

The population in Ireland is aging, with the latest population projections indicating a 38% increase in the over 65s population and a 68% increase in the over 85s population by 2031. Home support aims to enable older people to continue living in their own homes with confidence, security and dignity, and the Government has stated its aim to improve community-based services to make this possible. There is a recognition that for many older people who need support, their preferred option is to remain at home for as long as possible. 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 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 competing demands for the service.

The service is managed by local Home Support Management Teams within each 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. Home Support budgets for 2025 have been allocated to each region and the HSE continues to monitor activity against targets and expenditure against allocated budget across the regions.

In the context of the 2024 National Service Plan target of 22m hours of home support, preliminary data as at year end 2024 indicates that 23.76m home support hours were delivered to 58,546 people, representing an increase of 7.4% (1.65m hours) in service delivery when compared to the 2023 year end position and 8% in excess of the target. Overall expenditure in 2024 amounted to circa €786m.

As at the 31st of December 2024, 4,716 people were recorded as waiting on care staff to deliver Home Support. This is a reduction of 1,957 people waiting on Carers when compared to the December 2022 position. 2,111 (44.8%) of those waiting in December 2024 were waiting on a new service to be provided, with the remaining 2,605 (55.2%) having a Home Support service in place but were waiting on care staff to deliver an additional service.

The number of people who were assessed and waiting on funding for the provision of Home Support Services on the 31st of December, 2024 rested at 840. This activity was linked to CHO8 and associated with the approach to operate within the financial control limits for that area. On foot of the increased allocation of funding and increase in target hours for NSP 2025 this matter is now being addressed by the area.

The 2025 National Service Plan provides funding for the delivery of 24m home support hours to 60,000 people. Growth in the delivery of home support as at end of December 2024 resulted in a 38.7% increase in service delivery when compared to the year end 2018 position.

Please see Appendix 1 for details of the expenditure on Home Support in each month of 2023 and 2024.

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1: Total amount of expenditure on Home Support in each month of 2023 and 2024

Years	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2023	€ 50.16	€ 48.42	€ 51.35	€ 54.04	€ 54.13	€ 55.70	€ 57.17	€ 59.31	€ 61.07	€ 58.00	€ 59.40	€ 64.34	€ 673.08
2024	€ 60.96	€ 59.84	€ 63.78	€ 62.06	€ 64.69	€ 66.33	€ 64.91	€ 66.98	€ 66.01	€ 69.97	€ 68.22	€ 72.88	€ 786.61

Note: Financial data quoted is presented in millions.