



24<sup>th</sup> July, 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 Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ: 38189/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer at the end of the first 6 months of each year 2023-2025, inclusive in tabular form, including the breakdown by length of wait. -David Cullinane**

**PQ: 38190/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of the first 6 months of each year 2023-2025, inclusive. -David Cullinane**

Home Support aims to enable people to continue to live in their own homes with confidence, security and dignity. 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 available resources and competing demands for the services.

The population is ageing, with the latest population projections indicating a 38% increase in the over 65-years population and 68% increase in the over 85 years population by 2031. The recent ESRI publication of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 'Projections of national demand and ded capacity for older people's care in Ireland, 2022:2040' states that the population aged over 65 is projected to grow from 0.78m in 2022 to over 1.3m by 2040. This demographic shift is the primary driver of increased demand for home support services.

Demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, continues to increase due to population growth as outline above and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort. The type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centered personal care model. 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.

The latest available preliminary data reflects the period to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2025. As of this date, no people were waiting on funding to be allocated. As of the same date, 4,945 people were assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned, 2,121 were new service users while 2,824 were already in receipt of home support but waiting on additional hours to commence. *\*Please note data is preliminary in nature and subject to change.*

In addition, please note that data in relation to "breakdown by length of wait", is not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally within the Health Regions, it would take considerable resources to produce data on same nationally.

Please see appendices below with requested data set out by Health Region.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Appendix 1: The number of Service Users waiting for a Carer for year 2023-2025.**

***Home Support Waiting List – Waiting on Carers***

<b>RHA</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Jun</b>
<b>2025</b>	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	4,945
<b>2024</b>	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	5,305
<b>2023</b>	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	6,020

***Home Support Waiting List – Waiting on Additional Hours***

<b>RHA</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Jun</b>
<b>2025</b>	Waiting on Carers - Additional	2,824
<b>2024</b>	Waiting on Carers - Additional	2,905
<b>2023</b>	Waiting on Carers - Additional	2,945