



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  
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8<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Deputy David Cullinane,  
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**PQ: 38204/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of people with a disability who are in receipt of less than their full allocation of home support at the end of quarter 2 for each year 2022-2025, in tabular form.*

**PQ: 38205/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of people with a disability who are in receipt of less than their full allocation of personal assistance hours at the end of quarter 2 for each year 2022-2025, in tabular form.*

**PQ: 38206/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of people with a disability who are in receipt of less than their full allocation of respite services at the end of quarter 2 for each year 2022-2025, in tabular form.*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Questions referenced above, which have been forwarded to me for direct reply.

With regard to the questions asked, the HSE does not collate this data nationally, however each local HSE area 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 Regional Healthcare Area /Integrated Healthcare Area

DSMAT captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals. This enables the local 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 local area 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.

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.



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.

So far in 2025, the following has been provided:

- PA hours delivered = 460,998 in Q1 2025
- No. People in receipt of PA = 2,917
- Home Support hrs delivered = 1,007,133 hours for Q1 2025
- No. People in receipt of HS = 7,326

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available. The current level of PA service includes an increase in PA hours totalling 350,370 hours in the National Service Plans since 2020 as follows:

- 2020 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2021 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2022 = 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2023 = 70,370 additional hours of personal assistant supports.
- 2024 = 80,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports.

With regard to respite provision, as a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.

Respite is a key priority area for the HSE for people with disabilities and their families and we have seen significant investment in respite services, which has impacted positively on the level of service delivered in successive years.

At the end of Quarter 1 2025, we delivered 39,015 overnight sessions and 16,093 day only respite sessions to 7,000 people with disabilities.

Each local HSE area continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/ safeguarding risks, through lower-cost non-residential interventions such as in-home and Residential Respite, active case-management and inter-agency cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

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Tom McGuirk,  
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration