



14th August, 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: 42627/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for home care packages by health region and integrated healthcare area, in tabular form. -Pádraig Rice

PQ: 42628/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for home care packages in each month to date in 2025, by health region and integrated healthcare area, in tabular form. -Pádraig Rice

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 30th 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 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 30th 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 and subject to change.

Please see appendices below with requested data.

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1: Number of Service Users waiting on a Carer as at 30th June 2025.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Care Staff

Health Region	YTD Reporting
National Total	4,945
HSE Dublin North East	762
HSE Dublin Midlands	285
HSE Dublin South East	782
HSE South West	990
HSE Mid West	761
HSE West and North West	1,365

Appendix 2: Number of Service Users waiting on a Carer for each month in 2025.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Care Staff

Health Region	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
National Total	4,805	5,098	4,855	4,855	4,833	4,945
HSE Dublin North East	283	726	672	691	600	762
HSE Dublin Midlands	386	456	504	449	447	285
HSE Dublin South East	931	766	702	788	779	782
HSE South West	948	936	917	940	933	990
HSE Mid West	757	721	763	751	740	761
HSE West and North West	1,500	1,493	1,297	1,236	1,334	1,365