



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
Director, National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

1st July 2025

Deputy Claire Kerrane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: claire.kerrane@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 29658/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of applications for HSE home support (disabilities) in 2023 and 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 29659/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of approvals for HSE home support (disabilities) in 2023 and 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 29660/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of refusals for HSE home support (disabilities) in 2023 and 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 29661/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the budget for HSE home support (disabilities) in 2023 and 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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

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.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

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.

Service Provision

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Table 1 below provides data for Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2018 - 2024. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.



Table 1: data for Home Support Services

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Home Support – Number of Hours	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146	3,544,938	3,850,161
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164	7,026	6,935

- Home Support hrs delivered in 2024 = 3,850,161 in 2024, which was 10.6% ahead of the NSP target and 8.3% ahead of the same period last year.
- No. People in receipt of HS in 2024 = 6,935 in 2024 which is down on NSP target of 7,326.

In 2025, in accordance with the National Service Plan, the HSE is committed to the provision of an additional 40,000 home support hours.

- Home Support hrs delivered = 1,007,133 for Q1 2025.
- No. People in receipt of HS = 7,326 for Q1* 2025.

Applications for Home Support.

There is no centrally maintained waiting list for these services. The local HSE CHO areas 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 CHO.

DSMAT captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals. This enables Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) 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 CHO 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.

Please see tables below - National Aggregation for 2019 to end of Quarter 4 2024.

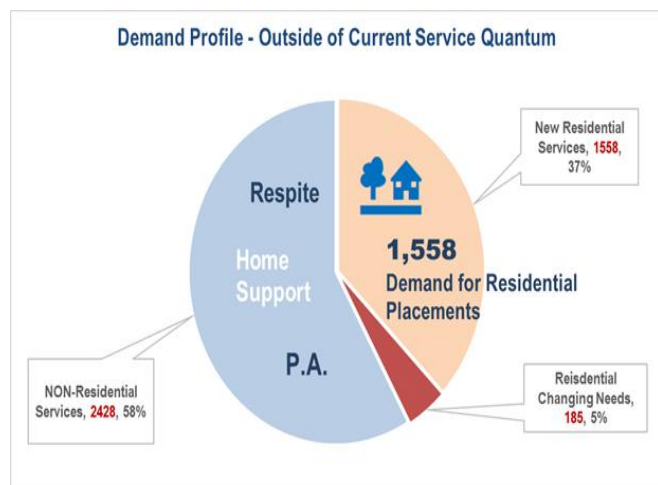
The updated figures below represent a "point in time" analysis and may not include applications received in to the CHO but not yet processed onto the DSMAT tool. (This includes applications for Home support and /or other services such as PA and Day services.)

Table 2: Applications for Non Residential Services

Total Applicants: Personal Assistance and Home Support Services and Day Respite Services	Mid. Yr. 2019	Mid. Yr. 2020	Mid. Yr. 2021	Mid. Yr. 2022	Mid. Yr. 2023	End of Q4 2024
	1117	1619	1903	2142	2492	2,428



The pie chart below, provides an overview of the demand for services – outside of current service quantum.



58% of applications for Disability Services are for Respite and or/Home Support and /or PA services.

In the normal course of service delivery, at local CHO level, there will be ongoing reviews throughout the year to ensure that if needs change the service provided will address this change within available resources. An individual's PA or Home Support hours may be adjusted following a service review where service demand can result in one individual's service being reduced in order to address priority needs of other people with disabilities within that community.

Data is not collated regarding approvals/refusals for Home Support. Currently, each CHO has a process to manage applications and referrals for PA and Home Support Services. While many individuals are adequately provided for by their current level of support, it is also the case that many would benefit from more support hours if they were available.

With regard to the Budget for Home Support Services, please see Table 3 below which gives the funding for PA and Home Support Services each year since 2020. Unfortunately it is not possible to separate the funding for PA services and Home Support Services.

Table 3. Funding

Service area	2020 Funding €000	2021 Funding €000	2022 Funding €000	2023 Funding €000	2024 Funding €000
PA & Home Support	€94,885	€100,613	€109,809	€116,972	€135,313
Total Disability Services	€2,054,500	€2,210,900	€2,347,380	€2,574,582	€2,885,618

Yours Sincerely,

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