



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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14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Deputy Paul McAuliffe,  
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**PQ: 31986/25**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of people with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 1 June 2025 or latest date available; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; the number waiting 0-3 months; the number waiting 3-6 months; the number waiting 6-12 months; and the number waiting more than 12 months, in tabular form.*

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Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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 PA & 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 PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

**Table 1** data for PA & Home Support Services

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>PA Services – Number of Hours</b>	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309	1,746,136	1,686,227	1,848,002
<b>PA Services –No. People availing of service</b>	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669	2,728	2,865
<b>Home Support – Number of Hours</b>	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146	3,544,938	3,850,161
<b>Home Support – No. People availing of service</b>	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164	7,026	6,935

## 2024

- PA hours delivered = 1,848,002 in 2024, which is almost in line NSP target of 1,850,000. However, it is up 8.9% on SPLY reflecting the allocation in the NSP 2024 of additional personal assistant hours to support persons with a disability in their own communities
- No. People in receipt of PA = 2,865, which was ahead of NSP target of 2,740.
- Home Support hrs delivered = 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 = 6,935, which is down on NSP target of 7,326.

## 2025

- PA hours delivered = 460,998 in Q1 2025 ( adjusted to allow for non return for two areas)
- No. People in receipt of PA = 2,917 (adjusted)
- Home Support hrs delivered = 1,007,133 hours for Q1 2025 .(adjusted for non return from two areas)
- No. People in receipt of HS = 7,326 ( adjusted)

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 the numbers of people in receipt of PA and Home Support Services, please see Tables 2 and 3 below. End of Quarter 1 2025 is the most recent information available

**Table 2-** PA Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Q1 2025 (\*adjusted for non return)

	Number of people with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
RHA	Q1 2025*	Q1 2025*
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,917*</b>	<b>460,998*</b>
HSE Dublin & Midlands	453	82,588
HSE Dublin & North East	225*	69,527*
HSE Dublin & South East	453	54,896
HSE Mid West	474	103,945
HSE South West	593	43,929

**Table 3** – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Quarter 1 2025(\*adjusted for non return)

	Number of people with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
RHA	Q1 2025	Q1 2025
<b>National Total</b>	<b>7,326*</b>	<b>1,007,133*</b>
HSE Dublin & Midlands	1,223	157,557
HSE Dublin & North East	2,019*	322,191*
HSE Dublin & South East	1,360	194,261
HSE Mid West	648	80,727
HSE South West	696	81,223
HSE West & North West	1,380*	171,174*

### Waiting List

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.

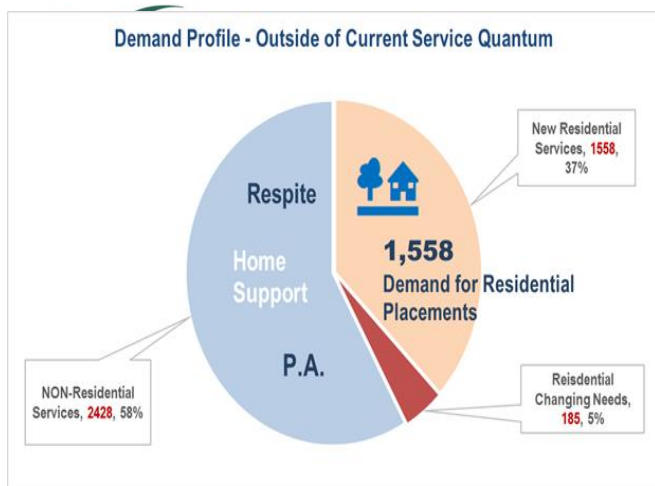
**Please see tables below - National Aggregation for 2019 to end of Quarter 4 2024.**

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**

<b>Total Applicants: Personal Assistance and Home Support Services and Day Respite Services</b>	<b>Mid. Yr. 2019</b>	<b>Mid. Yr. 2020</b>	<b>Mid. Yr. 2021</b>	<b>Mid. Yr. 2022</b>	<b>Mid. Yr. 2023</b>	<b>End of Q4 2024</b>
	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.

Yours Sincerely,

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