

27th June 2025

Mr. Ken O'Flynn, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 32118/ 25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of applications for HSE home support (disability) in CHO 4 in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 32119/ 25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of refusals for HSE home support (disability) in CHO 4 in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

PQ ref 32120/ 25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the average number of hours granted to HSE home support (disability) clients in CHO4, broken down by LHO, in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O'Flynn,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for response.

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services. These 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 is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses (PHNs) or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated using the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources.

In respect of the 2024 data held by HSE South West Disability Services it relates to PA and Home Support hours procured and funded via the budget provided by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. People with disabilities are also entitled to apply for home support hours via community services and the data pertaining to those hours is not included in the tables below.

Table 1: Number of home supports hours delivered and the number of people in receipt of home support in 2024.

Number of Home Support Hours delivered to people with a Disability in 2024.		
Cork South and West	Cork North and East	Kerry
73,367	97,589	38,563
Number of people with a Disability in receipt of Home Support Services in 2024.		
Cork South and West	Cork North and East	Kerry
966	645	764

Table 2: Number of new referrals for Home Support and number who commenced home support in 2024.

Number of new referrals accepted for Home Support services (ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability) in 2024.	127 applications
Number of new people with a disability who commenced a Home Support service (ID/Autism and Physical and Sensory Disability) in 2024.	64 people

Table 3: Number of PA service hours delivered and the number of people in receipt of a PA service in 2024.

Number of PA service hours delivered to people with a Disability in 2024.		
Cork South and West	Cork North and East	Kerry
60,109	68,759	55,138
Number of people in receipt of a PA service in 2024.		
Cork South and West	Cork North and East	Kerry
719	904	733



Table 4: Number of new referrals for PA service and the number who commenced PA support in 2024.

Number of new referrals accepted for PA service in 2024	19
Number of new people who commenced a PA service in 2024.	27

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 a finite resource available for the provision of Personal Assistant and Home Support services. We endeavour to approve all applications however, in the context of a finite resource some people may be waitlisted pending available resources. Resources available are substantial however they are not sufficient to meet the assessed needs, will and preference of all applicants.

In this context, the number of hours granted is determined by a number of factors including consideration of other support services already provided to the person/family.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
HSE South West

