



2nd April 2025

Deputy Mairéad Farrell,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ: 12303/25

To ask the Minister for Health the work her Department is undertaking to ensure that care hours that have been allocated to individuals are filled; if she is aware that in some cases where an individual with a disability turns 65 and transitions from disability services to older persons' services that the care hours they receive can be reduced; if her Department is working to rectify this in particular; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Mairéad Farrell

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 the available resources and the competing demands for the service.

Demand for home support continues to increase due to population growth and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort. 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 home support service which people receive is based on an individual client's care needs which are assessed by clinical staff and the home support provided will vary dependent on the level of dependency and other support structures in place such as attendance at day care etc. The overall home support resource and the range of providers, including HSE directly employed staff, is carefully managed 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.

Yours sincerely,

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