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Ceannasaí Seirbhisí Duine Níos Sine, ECSP Lár Tíre An Lú An Mhí, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, ECSP Lár Tíre An Lú An Mhí Oifig Ceantair, Ionad Slainte, An Mhuileann gCearr, Co. na hIarmhí Tel No: (044) 9395068 Head of Older Persons Services Midlands Louth Meath CHO, Health Service Executive, Midlands Louth Meath CHO Area Office, Health Centre, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Tel No: (044) 9395068

23rd April, 2024

Deputy Peadar Tóibín T.D., Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

Re: PQ 13073/25 - To ask the Minister for Health if the home care hours in Meath have reached capacity of the budget; and the number of outstanding hours have been requested and not filled to date – Peadar Toibin

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above representation. I have examined the matter and outline the position below.

Meath Home Support services exceeded the 2024 allocated budget for Home Support service by October 22nd 2024 which resulted in Home Support having to restrict services and prioritize the allocation of resource in line with the assessed needs of applicants.

Home Support service in Meath is projected to exceed the 2025 allocated budget. Currently Meath Home Support services are operating within financial control limits and resource availability. There are currently 1744.75 hours on the Meath Home Support services waiting list for a combination of full and partial services. The waiting list is due to resource limitations related to carer availability, financial limitations and geographical location. All Home Support service requests and waiting lists are being reviewed daily and once resources become available, services will be prioritised accordingly.

A new recruitment campaign for Health Care Assistants (Home Support) is underway across IHA Louth/Meath and IHA Midlands with a specific focus on areas that have increased service needs.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Breege Donoghue A/Head of Service, Older Persons Services Midlands Louth Meath CHO