

Head of Service for Older Persons
HSE South West - Health Service Executive
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Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS Iardheiscirt - Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Teach Caha, Párc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta
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7th April 2025

Deputy Pat Buckley, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 14286/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health if targeted funding can be introduced for rural home care delivery for the area of Cork and Kerry, CHO 4, given that this region has the highest number of people on the waiting list for home care and that the waiting lists for home care, on average, are more than five times higher outside of Dublin”.

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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

HSE South West continues to work on increasing our capacity to deliver a home support service to as many clients as possible in the Cork and Kerry region. However, the challenges that can present in our more rural locations are well documented, in contrast with higher density urban areas which have access to a wider pool of prospective staff when recruiting. Service delivery is consequently more clustered in areas with higher population densities. Delivery of home support is also easier to roster in urban areas when travel times are shorter between clients and can be assisted by public transport. Private providers, who assist the HSE in delivering home support, are also more plentiful in urban locations.

In the Cork and Kerry region, HSE South West continues strident recruitment efforts in the face of a challenging employment environment and an increasing demand for home support. Recruitment campaigns are on-going and successful applicants are deployed as a priority to the areas where they are most needed. Our population is growing and it is also ageing and this means that demand for home support services is projected to increase substantially. Improving access to home support is a service priority for HSE South West and, to this end, we will continue to consider and utilise all avenues to fulfil our service requirements.

Within this context, the introduction of targeted funding is not likely to overcome all of the challenges outlined above. However, HSE South West will continue to work in tandem with senior management and our Department of Health colleagues to identify all avenues to reduce our waiting lists.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons