



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Náisunta Cúnta,
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta –
Rochtain & Comhtháthú

Aonad 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tullach Mhór, Co Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

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27th May 2025

Deputy Darren O' Rourke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O' Rourke,

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: 23594/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of acute hospital bed days that were lost due to the lack of availability of home care packages and availability of nursing home places, in 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Darren O'Rourke

*Please note this response only relates to Home Support Services.

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 Community Healthcare Organisation/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.

Latest available data in relation to delayed transfers of care (DTOC), indicates that on the 14th May 2025, 422 people were recorded as a delayed transfer of care (DTOC). Of the 422 people recorded, 39 people were categorised as Type A Destination Home. Please see summary table below, as at end of December in 2023 and 2024 which sets out DTOC data with regard to Home Support services.

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1 – Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC) – Home Support – 31st December 2024

Source: HSE Delayed Transfers of Care National Reports

| Number of Delayed Transfer of Care by Reason | | | DTOC Bed Days Lost | DTOC Number of Patients |
|--|---------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 31/12/2024 | | | Total | Total |
| Type A: Home | Type A: | Home Support Service | 1,060 | 34 |
| | DTOCA1 | MFFD - awaiting to transfer out for Care Needs Assessment (Discharge to Assess) | 59 | 5 |
| | DTOCA2 | MFFD - awaiting assessment for ongoing HSP by Community Services | 34 | 3 |
| | DTOCA3 | MFFD - awaiting Discharge to Assess for Reablement Package | - | - |
| | DTOCA4 | MFFD - application submitted but patient now waiting for funding for HSP | 142 | 7 |
| | DTOCA5 | MFFD - application submitted, funding approved but patient waiting for carer availability for HSP | 760 | 18 |
| | DTOCA6 | MFFD - Intensive Home Care Package required (>21 hours), but awaiting CHO approval | 65 | 1 |
| | DTOCA7 | MFFD - Patients self funding self live in care - delay in securing provider | - | - |

Appendix 2 – Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOC) – Home Support – 26th December 2023

| Number of Delayed Transfer of Care by Reason | | | DTOC Bed Days Lost | DTOC Number of Patients |
|--|---------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 26/12/2023 | | | Total | Total |
| Type A: Home | Type A: | Home Support Service | 3,866 | 45 |
| | DTOCA1 | MFFD - awaiting to transfer out for Care Needs Assessment (Discharge to Assess) | 252 | 5 |
| | DTOCA2 | MFFD - awaiting assessment for ongoing HSP by Community Services | 1,653 | 5 |
| | DTOCA3 | MFFD - awaiting Discharge to Assess for Reablement Package | - | - |
| | DTOCA4 | MFFD - application submitted but patient now waiting for funding for HSP | 464 | 8 |
| | DTOCA5 | MFFD - application submitted, funding approved but patient waiting for carer availability for HSP | 1,463 | 26 |
| | DTOCA6 | MFFD - Intensive Home Care Package required (>21 hours), but awaiting CHO approval | - | - |
| | DTOCA7 | MFFD - Patients self funding self live in care - delay in securing provider | 34 | 1 |