

23rd May 2025

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 23756/25

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of people awaiting a home help package (see below) in Kerry, broken by area and by length of time, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Clarification provided: *Please note that this question is on Home Support for persons with disabilities.*

Dear Deputy Daly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to respond to your parliamentary question submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth.

HSE South West Disability Services provide a range of alternative respite models for children and adults. These include afterschool clubs; in-home support for children and adults; outreach supports and holiday breaks for adults. These options ensure that respite is provided in the manner which best meets the needs of children/ adults and their families.

Home support type services for people with disabilities in this area are provided by a range of service providers. Waiting times to access these supports are influenced by the capacity of providers to recruit the necessary staff. The waiting list information is outlined in the following table.

Table 1: Children and Adults awaiting home support in Co. Kerry.

	North Kerry	South Kerry	West Kerry	Across Kerry
No. Children	9	10	4	

Waiting time	3 -12 months	1-14 months	10 -17 months	
No. Adults	1	4	1	24
Waiting time	1-2 months	0-6 months	1 week	0-6 months

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 services and while the resources available are substantial they insufficient to meet the assessed needs, will and preference of all applicants.

HSE South West Disability Services is acutely aware of the demand for respite services and, on receipt of very welcome funding, has significantly invested in respite services in recent years. HSE South West Disability Services continues to invest in respite services, proactively seeking alternative respite models and utilise all available funding to provide respite services for all children and adults who require them. HSE South West Disability Services are working with service providers to create new residential and alternative respite supports for children and adults in 2025 and welcomes any additional funding to continue to invest in these vital services.

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

