

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
Bóthar na Modh Feirme, Corcaigh
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14th May 2025

Deputy Pa Daly, T.D.,
Leinster House
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 24945/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people awaiting a home help package in Kerry, broken by area and by length of time, in tabular form”

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

Despite a significant level of service provision, the demand for home support nationally and regionally continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years increases. Improving access to home support is a Government and HSE priority.

The majority of clients who are prescribed Home Support in Kerry region have a service commence almost immediately. However, on occasion, part of the prescribed service may not be put in place - this would be predominantly down to lack of carer availability in the area. Many of our clients are allocated full or partial service shortly after application. Our waiting list is made up of both clients who are awaiting a new service (i.e. currently are not in receipt of any service), and clients who are awaiting additional hours/part of the originally prescribed service (i.e. they are receiving some home support).

The below table details the number of home support hours being provided in Kerry as at the end of March 2025 broken down by the area and average length of time:

Area	Castleisland	Killarney	Killorglin	Listowel	Tralee	West Kerry	Total
No. of Clients Awaiting additional Service	31	3	6	4	6	1	51
No. of Clients Awaiting New Service	18	1	3	13	5	1	41
Average wait for Additional Service in Weeks	32.5	61.0	23.6	45.8	16.5	24.9	
Average wait for New Service in Weeks	29.4	7.3	18.7	34.4	18.7	8.0	

When a request for home support is received, our priority is to identify availability to deliver that support. Capacity is sought both within our own home support service and with our approved private providers. However, increasingly, our private providers are experiencing similar recruitment and retention issues to ourselves, resulting in some applications being waitlisted until availability arises within either sector (HSE or private).

We continue to endeavour to deliver a home support service to as many clients as possible in the face of a challenging employment environment and the ongoing increased demand for home support.

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 People

