



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras Phlásóg na Rós,
Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile, Páirc
Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an
Treoigh, Luimneach

Office of the Assistant National
Director, National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

24th June 2025

Deputy Mark Wall,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: mark.wall@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 27566/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to outline the home support services available to provide family carers with in-home respite supports between the hours of 10pm – 8am; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 27567/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to provide a breakdown of the number of overnight home support hours that were delivered by HSE direct provision and authorisation scheme providers, by CHO, for the year to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 27568/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality to provide a breakdown of the number of support hours delivered by HSE direct provision, and authorisation scheme providers, by CHO, for the year to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Wall

Thank you for your Parliamentary Questions referenced above, which have been forwarded to me for direct reply.

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. 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 not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.



Service Provision

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Table 1 below provides data for Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2018 - 2024. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.

Table 1: data for Home Support Services

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Home Support – Number of Hours	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146	3,544,938	3,850,161
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164	7,026	6,935

- Home Support hrs delivered in 2024 = 3,850,161 in 2024, which was 10.6% ahead of the NSP target and 8.3% ahead of the same period last year.
- No. People in receipt of HS in 2024 = 6,935 in 2024 which is down on NSP target of 7,326 indicating increased complexity and more hours per person.

In 2025, in accordance with the National Service Plan, the HSE is committed to the provision of an additional 40,000 home support hours.

- Home Support hrs delivered = 1,007,133 for Q1* 2025.
- No. People in receipt of HS = 7,326 for Q1* 2025.

Please note that information is not collated separately nationally regarding hours delivered overnight.

Home Support is primarily provided during Day Hours/Weekday Monday to Saturday and depending on individual need and circumstance, overnight, Sunday and Bank Holiday Home Support services are also provided.

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

Please note that it is not possible to disaggregate the information by HSE direction provision and authorisation scheme providers as this scheme has not yet commenced.

However, work is ongoing on progressing the Home Support Authorisation Scheme.

Progress to Date: Home Support Authorisation Scheme

As per the National Service Plan 2025, HSE Disability Services will be introducing a new approach to the procurement of Home Support services for adults with disabilities. This will be the “*Disability Home Support Authorisation Scheme (AS) 2025.*”

The scheme aims to provide a mechanism for delivering defined services through the application of a fixed rate, facilitating client choice, and supporting the maximisation of service providers in the sector.

Service providers will have to meet specific qualifications and standards, therefore ensuring the highest quality service providers are contracted to provide the best quality home support service for people with a disability.

Based on input from the Authorisation Steering Group, including service users, service providers, colleagues in Older Persons, Home Support services and the Procurement Evaluation Group (PEG), consisting of representatives from HSE Procurement, National Disability Services, Disability General/Case Managers from each of the 6 Health regions, Disability Finance, Quality and Clinical Leads, the required documentation and service specifications have been completed.



The date for procurement to publish the tender is due to be set within the short term. Once in place, the Authorisation Scheme, will be able to provide a full list of approved Home Support providers under the scheme.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerry Tully,
Assistant National Director, Adult Disability Services, Access & Integration