



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.

8th October 2025

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 52496/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of persons with a disability who are in receipt of less than their full allocation of home support at the end of quarter three for each year 2022 to date in 2025, in tabular form.

PQ: 52497/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of persons with a disability who are in receipt of less than their full allocation of personal assistance hours at the end of quarter three for each year 2022 to date in 2025, in tabular form

PQ: 52498/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number and percentage of persons with a disability who are in receipt of less than their full allocation of respite services at the end of quarter three for each year 2022 to date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

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. The Table below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2019 - 2024. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309	1,746,136	1,686,227	1,865,944
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669	2,728	2,865
Home Support – Number of Hours	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146	3,544,938	3,958,161
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164	7,026	6,935

In 2024, the HSE delivered 3,958,161 hours of Home Support to 6,935 people. This represents an increase of 30% on the figure for 2019 of 3,036,182.

Similarly in 2024, the HSE delivered 1,865,944 hours of PA Service to 2,865 people, representing an increase of 12% on the figure for 2019 of 1,652,030.

So far in the first half of 2025, the following has been provided:

- PA hours delivered = 920,199 in Q1 and Q2 2025
- No. People in receipt of PA = 2,917 in Q2
- Home Support hrs delivered = 2,068,806 hours for Q1 and Q2 2025
- No. People in receipt of HS = 7,556 in Q2

Please note figures have been adjusted to take into account non return of data from some areas. Home support hours delivered have exceeded the NSP target by 8.9%. Additionally figures regarding people in receipt of Home Support are 3.2% ahead of the NSP target.

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. For example, the current level of PA service includes an increase in PA hours totalling 445,370 hours in the National Service Plans since 2020 as follows:

- 2020 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2021 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2022 = 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2023 = 70,370 additional hours of personal assistant supports.
- 2024 = 80,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports.
- 2025 = 95,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports

The HSE and its funded Agencies provide respite care to children and adults with disabilities. Respite can occur in a variety of settings for various lengths of time, depending on the needs of the individual service user and their family or carer, and according to available resources. Respite is not always centre-based and can be provided in a number of ways, e.g. Centre based; In-Home; Home-to-Home; Family Support, etc. As a vital part of the continuum of services for families, respite potentially helps prevent out-of-home full-time residential placements, preserves the family unit, and supports family stability.

The provision of residential respite services has come under increasing pressure in the past number of years due to a number of impacting factors such as:

- an increase in the number of children and adults who are seeking access to respite as a reflection of general population increase;
- increasing levels of complexity across the sector due to better and improved health care;
- an increase in some cases in the age profile of people with a disability resulting in people presenting with “changing needs”;
- a significant number of respite places have been utilised on longer-term basis due to the presenting complexity of the individual with a disability and also due to home circumstances, which prevents availability of the service to other disabled persons who would normally avail of that respite.



- the regulation of service provision as set by HIQA, which requires Service Providers to comply with regulatory standards in order to meet regulation. Standards specify a requirement for personal and appropriate space which impacts on the capacity and Statement of Purpose for a Designated Centre. This has had a direct impact on capacity where respite beds are no longer allowed within a residential setting e.g. vacated by residents who go home at weekends or for holidays, can no longer be used for respite.
- Implementation of the national policy on congregated settings (Time to Move on from Congregated Settings Policy) determines capacity.

Respite is a key priority area for the HSE for people with disabilities and their families and we have seen significant investment in respite services, which has impacted positively on the level of service delivered in successive years.

In 2024, we delivered 160,952 overnights and 64,162 day only sessions to around 6,975 people with a disability. A comparison of 2023 and 2024 activity data, shows an increase of 9,351 respite overnights, representing a growth rate of 6.2% and additional Day-Only Sessions of 19,721 and a growth rate of 43.4%.

At the end of Quarter 2 2025, we delivered 82,609 overnight sessions and 33,966 day only respite sessions to 7,460 people with disabilities. (Please note that the figures are adjusted for non return of data). Respite services provision is currently exceeding the NSP targets.

The HSE must work within the parameters of the funding it receives from Government for services such as PA, Home Support and Respite. The quantum of services is outlined in the NSP each year and the HSE is working to meet these targets.

With regard to the specific questions asked, the HSE does not collate this data nationally, however each local HSE area would be aware of the need and requirements in their respective areas and would work with the local Service Providers with a view to responding to the level of presenting needs within the resources available.

Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT)

HSE Disability Services has introduced a system called the Disability Support Application Management Tool (DSMAT), which provides a list and detailed profiles of people (Adults & Children) who need additional funded supports in each Regional Healthcare Area /Integrated Healthcare Area

DSMAT captures detailed information on home and family circumstances and a detailed presentation profile of the individuals. This enables the local areas to record and manage requests for support and to ensure that the application process is equitable and transparent.

It is important to note that in the absence of a statutory, legislative framework providing entitlement to services, the DSMAT is not a chronological waiting list. Rather, it is a support to the local area area to feed into its decision making process around prioritisation of services, subject to budgetary constraints.

This means that services are allocated on the basis of greatest presenting need and associated risk factors.

Each local HSE area continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/ safeguarding risks, through lower-cost non-residential interventions such as in-home and Residential Respite, active case-management and inter-agency cooperation.

Please see tables below - National Aggregation for 2019 to end of Quarter 4 2024.

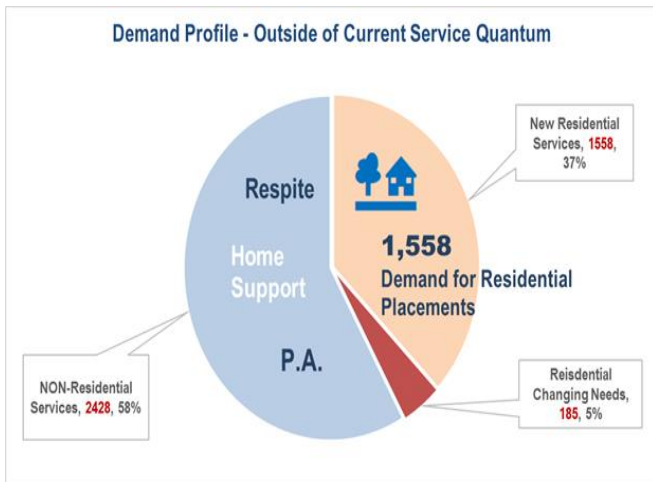
The updated figures below represent a "point in time" analysis and may not include applications received in to the CHO but not yet processed onto the DSMAT tool. (This includes applications for Personal Assistance, Home support and Day Respite services.)

Table 2: Applications for Non Residential Services

Total Applicants: Personal Assistance and Home Support Services and Day Respite Services	Mid. Yr. 2019	Mid. Yr. 2020	Mid. Yr. 2021	Mid. Yr. 2022	Mid. Yr. 2023	End of Q4 2024
	1117	1619	1903	2142	2492	2,428



The pie chart below, provides an overview of the demand for services – outside of current service quantum.



58% of applications for Disability Services are for Respite and or/Home Support and /or PA services.

In the normal course of service delivery, at local CHO level, there will be ongoing reviews throughout the year to ensure that if needs change the service provided will address this change within available resources. An individual's PA or Home Support hours may be adjusted following a service review where service demand can result in one individual's service being reduced in order to address priority needs of other people with disabilities within that community.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration