



15th October, 2025

Deputy Ivana Bacik,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Bacik,

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: 53299/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons who have applied for homecare support through the HSE and who are awaiting the allocation of homecare in each county, in tabular form; the average wait time for same; and her views on the sustainability of the section 39 model in this respect.
-Ivana Bacik

Home Support aims to enable people to continue to live in their own homes with confidence, security and dignity. 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 available resources and competing demands for the services.

Demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, continues to increase due to population growth as outline above and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort. The type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centered personal care model. The Home Support Service is managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each 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 Service User's assessed needs.

The latest available preliminary data reflects the period to 31st August 2025. As of this date, there were no people waiting on funding to be allocated. As of the same date, the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at 5,311, of which 2,252 were new Service Users and 3,059 were existing Service Users already in receipt of Home Support, but waiting on additional service to commence. See appendix 1 below. Please note data is preliminary and subject to change. With regard to your request for "length of wait", please note that this data is not currently collated nationally.

In relation to your query on the Section 39 'model', please note that Home Support services are provided by the HSE directly and by approved home support service providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver services on its behalf. Section 39 providers are a valued part of that landscape and operate across a number of Health Regions providing essential home support services.

Yours sincerely,

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

Appendix 1

Details the number of Service Users waiting on carers as at 31st August 2025 by Health Region.

Service Users waiting on Carers - Total

Health Region	Aug-25
National Total	5,311
HSE Dublin North East	1,009
HSE Dublin Midlands	330
HSE Dublin South East	885
HSE South West	1,045
HSE Mid West	820
HSE West and North West	1,222