



Ceann Seirbhísí Daoine Scothaosta

Limistéar Cúram Sláinte Pobail an
Oirdheiscirt | Lacken |
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath | Cill Chainnigh |
R95 NV08

**Head of Service Older
Persons**

South East Community
Healthcare Area | Lacken |
Dublin Road | Kilkenny |
R95 NV08

Tel: 056 7784319

28th October 2025

Mr Michael Murphy, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 54927/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the critical shortage of health care assistants in the Clonmel and south Tipperary area; the immediate measures being taken to address the waiting lists for home support services for older persons and those requiring post-hospital care.; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 54928/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of individuals in the Clonmel and south Tipperary area who are awaiting allocation of home support hours; the average waiting time for new applicants; and the steps being taken to reduce these waiting lists.

PQ 54929/25

To ask the Minister for Health if additional resources or recruitment initiatives are planned to increase the availability of home support staff in south Tipperary, given the current shortage of health care assistants and rising demand for services.

PQ 54930/25

To ask the Minister for Health to outline the funding allocation for home support services in south Tipperary in each of the past three years; and whether additional funding will be made available in Budget 2026 to meet increasing demand.

PQ 54931/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE has undertaken any targeted recruitment campaigns for health care assistants in the south east community healthcare area; and if so, to provide details of the outcomes and timelines for deployment of additional staff.

PQ 54932/25

To ask the Minister for Health if her Department will consider establishing a specific retention and recruitment initiative to support rural and regional home support services, including in Clonmel, where staff shortages are acute.

Dear Deputy Michael Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which were submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following composite response outlines the current position.

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I wish to update you on the current position in relation to the recruitment of Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) and the status of home support services within the South Tipperary area, as referenced in your recent correspondence.

The HSE has commenced a localised and targeted recruitment campaign in Fethard, Co. Tipperary. In addition, a targeted recruitment campaign has been undertaken in the West Waterford area. Although I am aware that West Waterford is not within your remit, I felt it was pertinent to advise you of this activity given the proximity of service delivery across CHO boundaries. This targeted campaign has been positive and there are interviews ongoing this week.

The HSE will continue to develop targeted recruitment campaigns, prioritising areas of greatest Home Support need, beginning with the South Tipperary region.

We recognise that there are currently staffing shortages within the Home Support service in South Tipperary. This is due to a combination of factors including age profiling of existing staff, ongoing retirements, and the impact of the recent recruitment embargo. I wish to assure you that we continue to engage proactively with our private provider agency colleagues under the approved Authorised Provider Scheme. This applies to both clients in the community and those requiring support following hospital discharge.

With regard to waiting times, it is important to note that average delays vary across geographical areas depending on the availability of staff. For this reason, it is very difficult to provide an exact timeline on how long individuals may wait for services, as this can differ from one area to another.

In Clonmel specifically, there are currently 71 clients awaiting home support services. This is comprised of 45 new clients awaiting commencement of home support and 26 existing clients awaiting additional home support hours. These figures are accurate as of 20th October 2025.

I wish to reassure you that every effort is being made to meet the needs of our most vulnerable clients in the community, and we will continue to strive to deliver timely and equitable care across all localities.

I trust this clarifies. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Farrell
General Manager, Older Persons Services
IHA, Carlow/Kilkenny & South Tipperary



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