



22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

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

Dear Deputy,

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: 55425/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been drawn to the concerns of small homecare providers in relation to increased operating costs; if targeted supports can be considered to support these small businesses to avoid interruption to their service users; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Barry Ward**

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.

Home Support services for Older People are provided either by directly employed staff or by voluntary and private Providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The type of support provided includes personal care and, where appropriate, essential household duties relating to the service user's assessed needs.

In 2023, the HSE established a Home Support Authorisation Scheme (AS) as the mechanism for commissioning of home support services. The AS model is open-ended, therefore new entrants to the market may apply to join periodically. In establishing the AS the HSE moved to a fixed price model that also addressed to standardise rates payable to Approved Providers across the Health Regions. The current rate for core service provision Monday to Saturday, 8am to 10pm, stands at €32.73. Approved Providers are obliged to adhere to the Authorisation Scheme Service Specifications and associated Standard Operating Procedures available to view at the following weblink:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/service-arrangement-documents.html>

The HSE is committed to ensuring that services are delivered in a sustainable, equitable, and high-quality manner across the Regions and values and appreciates the continued contribution by all Approved Providers appointed to the Scheme in delivering such services to all those who require Home Support Services.

Yours sincerely,

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