



Ceann na Seirbhíse do Dhaoine Scothaosta
FSS an Iardheiscirt
Teach Caha,
Páirc Ghnó & Teicneolaíochta,
Bóthar na Modh Feirme,
Corcaigh

Head of Service for Older Persons
HSE South West
Caha House, Business & Technology Park
Model Farm Road
Cork
Eircode: T12 XHT4

southwest.hse.ie
Tel: 021 4923854
E: Jackie.daly@hse.ie

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Deputy Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

PQ ref 55810/25:

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of people awaiting a home help package in Kerry, broken down by area and by length of time, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter”.

Dear Deputy Daly,

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

As outlined in our previous response to PQ 42924/25, HSE South West is acutely aware that there are capacity issues across both direct and indirect provision of Home Support throughout the region. All of our offices continue to deliver as much support as they can within available capacity in the face of staff shortages and increased demand. We strive to maintain service for those who already have secured support while also doing our best to deliver new or additional support to as many clients as possible. Waiting lists are constantly being validated and significant work has been undertaken to address the waiting list for home support in the Kerry region. Priority is given to those clients requiring discharge from hospital and with higher levels of dependency.

As at the end of September 2025, **104 clients** were waitlisted for home support in County Kerry. 30 of these clients were awaiting allocation of a new service, while 74 existing clients were awaiting allocation of additional or increased hours. The majority of clients who are prescribed Home Support have a service commence almost immediately. However, on occasion, part of the prescribed service may not be put in place - this would be predominantly down to lack of carer availability in the area.

Home support waiting list data in Kerry is collated under each Home Support Resource Manager's area, as set out in the below table. The waiting list data provided is broken down into those clients awaiting a new service and existing clients awaiting additional support.

Area	New	Existing:	Total:
Tralee	0	5	5
Castleisland	22	40	62
Listowel	3	2	5
Killorglin (incorporates Caherciveen / Iveragh)	4	15	19
West Kerry	1	0	1
Killarney (incorporates Kenmare/ Rathmore areas)	0	12	12
Total Waitlist – Kerry (September 2025)	30	74	104



It is difficult to quantify waiting times between approval and commencement of home support for the region because, as can be seen from the above table, areas differ in terms of demand, capacity and staff availability. Many of our clients are allocated full or partial service shortly after application. Many are receiving a Monday to Friday service; where clients have been approved for a seven day service we are unfortunately often challenged in relation to staffing at weekends and that aspect of their service may be waitlisted until availability arises. Clients currently on our waiting list for support may be awaiting either additional/partial or a new service for up to 30 weeks, depending on staff availability in their locality.

HSE South West continues strident recruitment efforts in this region, in the face of an often challenging employment environment, with the focus for placement of successful candidates on those areas where home support staff are needed most. Supporting older people as they age is a key priority for HSE South West. We will continue to work to identify strategies to address capacity challenges and improve access to home support services for older persons living in their own communities in Kerry and the wider HSE South West region.

I trust this clarifies the position and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older Persons