



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

CABHÁN DÚN NA NGALL LIATROIM MUINEACHÁN SLIGEACH
CAVAN DONEGAL LEITRIM MONAGHAN SLIGO

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5th September, 2025

Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ ref 45043/25

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of health care assistants in Donegal employed by the HSE’s home help department who have left the service since July 2024, when the pay and numbers strategy commenced; and the number of new home care assistants who have been recruited by the HSE in Donegal since July, 2024, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy MacLochlainn,

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.

I have examined the matter and the table below outlines the number of healthcare assistants (HCAs) employed by the HSE Donegal Home Support Service that have left the service since July 2024, and the number of new HCAs that have been recruited by the HSE in Donegal since July 2024.

HSE Donegal Home Support Service	July 2024 – August 2025
No. of HCAs who have left the service	40
No. of new HCAs recruited	19

In addition to HCAs employed by the HSE, the HSE Donegal Home Support Service has procured private providers to supplement the HSE homecare service in Co. Donegal.

Management in the HSE Home Support Service have met with the existing and new private providers on multiple occasions to ascertain capacity to deliver services and enquire what their strategic plan is in relation to supporting waiting lists in the community and acute hospitals. Whilst capacity has improved, recruitment continues to be a challenge.

The demand for home support continues to increase in Co. Donegal with the level of individual need becoming more complex requiring on occasions the attendance of two HCAs. There are multiple recruitment campaigns being run across the county by all providers, with some companies having a designated recruiter which has resulted in increased capacity.



While recruitment of HCA's continues to be a challenge for Home Support Services it remains a service priority.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

General Manager,
Services for Older Persons,
Community Healthcare, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Cavan & Sligo,
Breffni Care Centre,
Ballyconnell,
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