



23rd September, 2025

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

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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 45257/25

To ask the Minister for Health if there is a difference in cost to supply home care through the HSE directly, as opposed to the use of private companies; and if so, the difference. -Peadar Tóibín

The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan (NSP). 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 the available resources and the competing demands for the service. NSP 2025 provides for the delivery of 24.3m hours of home support to circa 60,000 people.

The recent ESRI publication of 30th June 2025 'Projections of national demand and ded capacity for older people's care in Ireland, 2022:2040' states that the population aged over 65 is projected to grow from 0.78m in 2022 to over 1.3m by 2040. This demographic shift is the primary driver of increased demand for home support services and the increasing dependency of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort.

Home Support for Older People is provided either by directly employed staff of the HSE, or by voluntary and private providers who have formal service arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. The 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 clients' assessed needs.

Available preliminary data reflects the period to 31st August 2025. As of this date, 14.5m hours were delivered nationally to 59.3k service users, an increase of 7.3% or 1.2m hours when compared to the same period last year.

Providers appointed to the Home Support Authorisation Scheme, and approved to deliver services on behalf of the HSE, are paid at a unit cost per hour, funded within the available dedicated annual Home Support budget. The current core rate for indirect service provision stands at €32.73 per hour effective from 1st September 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan

Head of Service

Services for Older People, Access and Integration