



1st October 2025

**Deputy Peter Cleere,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Cleere,

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: 49215/25

To ask the Minister for Health to provide an update on the current waiting times for access to home care packages across Carlow and Kilkenny and nationally; and the steps being taken to help meet the current demand. -Peter 'Chap' Cleere.

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.

Demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, continues to increase due to population growth as outline above and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort. The type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centered personal care model. The Home Support 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 Service User's assessed needs.

The latest available preliminary data reflects the period to 31st August 2025. As of this date, no people were waiting on funding to be allocated. As of the same date, 5,311 people were assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned, 2,252 were new service users while 3,059 were already in receipt of home support but waiting on additional hours to commence. Please note data is preliminary and subject to change.

With regard to the current waiting times for accessing Home Support, please note that this information is not currently collated nationally. While it may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to compile this at a national level.

Yours sincerely,

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