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9th November, 2018

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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 44286/18

To ask the Minister for Health the number of older persons waiting for home support packages; and the waiting lists for homecare packages by CHO and LHO in tabular form

PQ 44287/18

To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support packages provided for the first half of 2017 compared to the number of home support packages provided in the first half of 2018 by CHO and LHO in tabular form

From 1st January 2018, with the approval of the Department of Health, the funding for both the former Home Help Service and the Home Care Package Scheme has been combined into a single service now known as the Home Support Service for Older People.

From January 2018, home support activity reflects the total hours and clients across the Home Support Service for Older People, being the totality of the amalgamated former Home Help Service and Home Care Package Scheme. Intensive Home Care Packages remain separate.

The 2018 HSE National Service Plan provides for:

- 17,094m home support hours to be delivered to 50,500 people at any time
- A further 156,000 hours to an additional 324 people, relating to adverse weather funding
- Intensive Home Care Packages to be delivered to approximately 235 people at any time and deliver approximately 360,000 hours in the full year

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support continues to grow and waiting lists have become a feature. The main reason for increased demand relates to the increase in demographics of older people in the state. This increase is set to continue each year. As the numbers in the over 65-years age group are increasing, demand for new home supports increases and, as those already in receipt of services become more dependent, demand for additional supports for existing clients also increases.

All those waiting are assessed and provided with a service, if appropriate, as soon as possible having regard to their assessed needs. In addition, people being discharged from acute hospitals, who are in a position to return home with supports, are prioritised.

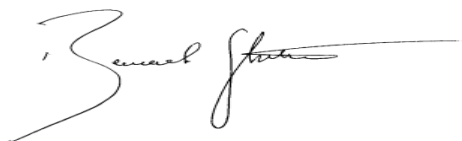
Nationally, at the end of August 2018, 6,285 people were waiting for funding for new or additional home support services. See Appendix 1 for breakdown by CHO & LHO. The HSE is in the process of implementing a standard national approach to assessment of care needs of older people. This new approach will assist over time in ensuring a more consistent approach to assessment processes and will help to ensure that waiting list data is aligned across the CHOs.

People who are on the waiting list are reviewed, as funding becomes available to ensure that individual cases continue to be dealt with on a priority basis within the available resources and as determined by local front line staff who know and understand the clients' needs, and who undertake regular reviews of those care needs to ensure that the services being provided remain appropriate. The number taken off the list is dependent upon the numbers of persons ceasing to need the service, the value of that service becoming available for recycling, the value of the service required by the new client and on any new funding that might be allocated.

At 31st July 2018, a total of 52,624 people were in receipt of home support (excluding provision from Intensive Home Care Packages). The estimated number of people in receipt of home support in July 2017 was 50,359 which is based on the number of clients in receipt of home help combined with home care package client data. (Appendix 2). The number of clients returned for CHO 9 in 2017 included a figure relating to clients in receipt of home support but not funded through the Services for Older People budget. This has been corrected in 2018 reporting.

The number of people in receipt of home support at any time will vary having regard to the value of the individual home supports approved and as clients cease and new clients with different value home support are approved and commenced.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard Gloster
Interim Head of Operations and Service Improvement, Services for Older People
Social Care Division, HSE

Appendix 1:

Number of people waiting on funding for Home Support Services (new or additional) August 2018

CHO	LHO	August 2018
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	240
	Donegal	201
	Sligo/ Leitrim	102
	CHO Total	543
CHO 2	Galway	674
	Mayo	356
	Roscommon	211
	CHO Total	1,241
CHO 3	Clare	270
	Limerick	41
	North Tipp/ East Limerick	5
	CHO Total	316
CHO 4	Kerry	0
	North Cork	0
	North Lee	0
	South Lee	71
	West Cork	107
	CHO Total	178
CHO 5	Carlow/ Kilkenny	0
	South Tipperary	0
	Waterford	97
	Wexford	578
	CHO Total	675
CHO 6	Dublin South East	0
	Dun Laoghaire	37
	Wicklow	155
	CHO Total	192
CHO 7	Dublin South City	352
	Dublin South West	233
	Dublin West	266
	Kildare/ West Wicklow	260
	CHO Total	1,111
CHO 8	Laois/ Offaly	578
	Longford/ Westmeath	19
	Louth	2
	Meath	63
	CHO Total	662
CHO 9	Dublin North	623
	Dublin North Central	202
	Dublin North West	542
	CHO Total	1,367
	Total	6,285

Appendix 2:

Number of people in receipt of Home Support (excluding provision from Intensive Home Care Packages)

CHO	LHO	July 2018	July 2017
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	1,375	1,040
	Donegal	1,656	2,475
	Sligo/ Leitrim	1,585	1,831
	CHO Total	4,616	5,346
CHO 2	Galway	3,109	2,231
	Mayo	1,725	1,770
	Roscommon	1,091	1,249
	CHO Total	5,925	5,250
CHO 3	Clare	1,237	1,091
	Limerick	1,943	1,606
	North Tipp/ East Limerick	1,379	1,281
	CHO Total	4,559	3,978
CHO 4	Kerry	2,676	2,660
	North Cork	1,380	1,253
	North Lee	1,868	1,605
	South Lee	1,918	1,653
	West Cork	950	881
	CHO Total	8,792	8,052
CHO 5	Carlow/ Kilkenny	1,435	1,329
	South Tipperary	1,437	1,465
	Waterford	1,413	1,377
	Wexford	1,709	1,582
	CHO Total	5,994	5,753
CHO 6	Dublin South East	1,351	671
	Dun Laoghaire	1,547	832
	Wicklow	1,471	1,183
	CHO Total	4,369	2,686
CHO 7	Dublin South City	1,560	972
	Dublin South West	1,508	1,050
	Dublin West	1,296	809
	Kildare/ West Wicklow	1,830	1,699
	CHO Total	6,194	4,530
CHO 8	Laois/ Offaly	1,089	1,682
	Longford/ Westmeath	1,384	1,349
	Louth	1,552	1,977
	Meath	1,424	1,511
	CHO Total	5,449	6,519
CHO 9	Dublin North	2,550	3,204
	Dublin North Central	2,316	2,410
	Dublin North West	1,860	2,631
	CHO Total	6,726	8,245
Total		52,624	50,359

*July 2017 data is taken from separate home help and home care package activity data. Some clients were in receipt of both home help and home care packages at that time so there may have been some double counting which was addressed in preparation for single funding of the Home Support Service for Older People from 1st January 2018.