



Oifig an Stiúirhóra Náisiúnta Cúnta
Oibríochtaí Pobail
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Assistant National Director –
Community Operations
Services for Older People

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3rd November 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Tully,

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 47932/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of hours for which homecare support assistants were required in each CHO from 2017 to date; the number of these hours that were filled by HSE employed homecare support assistants the number of these hours that were filled by external providers through the HSE and the number of hours in each CHO area within the same period that were unfilled resulting in unmet need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

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 and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

Despite the significant level of service provision, the demand for Home Support, and its importance as an alternative service to long stay care, has grown considerably over the past number of years. Similarly, the type of Home Support that is now required to meet the needs of the population is a more person-centred personal care model.

In 2022, the target hours have remained at 24.26m hours. Preliminary activity data currently available reflects the period to end of September 2022. As of this date, 16,081,686 Home Support hours were delivered nationally to 56,490 people, representing a 6.3% increase in service delivery versus the same period last year. Also, as of this date, there were 7 people assessed and waiting for funding for new or additional home support, while 6,255 people were assessed and approved for Home Support but are awaiting a carer to be assigned.

In relation to the data requested, please note that with effect from 1 January 2018, the Home Help service and Home Care Packages were amalgamated to form the single funded model of service delivery and became known as the Home Support Service. To that end, data in relation to 2017 is presented as Home Help (HH) hours delivered and the number of people in receipt of a Home Care Package (HCP). Please see Appendix 1 below in relation to data requested.

A joint work programme between the Department of Health and HSE, for the design and development of the new statutory home support scheme and regulation, is underway with the Department of Health leading out on the detailed process to determine what type of home care scheme is best to meet the ongoing and evolving needs of our older people. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathleen Jordan
General Manager
Services for Older People
Community Operations

Appendix 1 – Home Support Service Delivery (including HH & HCP data for 2017)

Home Support Service Provision

2017 to 2022

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017 **	
CHO	Activity YTD	Activity	Activity	Activity	Activity	HH Activity	HCP Activity
CHO1	1,681,297	2,007,795	1,682,041	1,667,144	1,694,036	1,442,265	1,378
CHO2	1,726,887	2,331,668	2,039,074	1,847,400	1,787,709	1,353,387	1,912
CHO3	1,406,846	1,714,615	1,412,975	1,504,922	1,456,803	922,119	1,149
CHO4	2,105,293	2,827,151	2,721,569	2,730,758	2,707,162	1,995,759	1,557
CHO5	1,542,865	1,908,419	1,839,284	1,946,169	1,927,217	1,146,958	1,242
CHO6	1,513,589	1,915,971	1,413,823	1,364,889	1,301,981	337,968	2,221
CHO7	1,665,701	2,310,477	2,013,320	2,024,615	1,880,560	638,601	3,060
CHO8	1,755,332	2,115,276	1,695,169	1,717,794	1,616,808	1,249,355	2,681
CHO9	2,683,875	3,331,843	2,736,927	2,680,675	2,758,176	1,299,527	4,607
National	16,081,686	20,463,215	17,554,182	17,484,366	17,130,453	10,385,938	19,807

* Activity YTD represented in 2022 is preliminary activity as at end of September 2022

** HH & HCP amalgamated to form Home Support on 1 January 2018