



**Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí**

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Tel: 061 483245

Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

**Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations**

Services for Older People

Tel: 061 483245

Email: olderpeople.operations@hse.ie

30<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Deputy Caoimhín Ó'Caoláin, TD**  
**Dáil Eireann,**  
**Leinster House,**  
**Kildare Street,**  
**Dublin 2.**

**Dear Deputy Ó'Caoláin,**

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 33266/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated additional expenditure required for home support services to end the current waiting lists being experienced; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 33267/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated additional expenditure required to increase provided home support services by 10%; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 33838/19**

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of providing an additional one million home support hours for older persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

The 2019 National Service Plan 2019 provides funding for Home Support Services for mainly older people to support delivery of:

- 17.9m home support hours to be delivered to 53,000 people inclusive of 410,000 hours/550 home support packages funded under the Winter Initiative 2018/2019.
- Intensive Home Care Packages delivered to approximately 235 people with approximately 360,000 hours delivered in the full year

The following estimates utilise the current average of 6.5 hours of home support per client per week;

- Waiting list clearance: In the region of €59m (full year cost)
- Increase of 10% in service delivery: In the region of €45m (full year cost)
- Additional one million hours: In the region of €25m (full year cost)

It is important to note, the actual cost of delivery will vary depending on whether the hours are delivered during core times, Monday to Friday, or outside of core hours in the late evenings or at weekends/bank holidays.

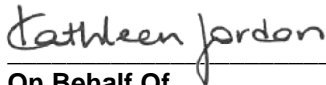
The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services.

- This is a key action under the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and will improve access to home support services in an affordable and sustainable way.

- The system of regulation for home support will help to ensure that the public can be confident that the services provided are of a high standard.
- The Sláintecare Action Plan 2019 also sets out a very significant programme of work aimed out developing and improving health and social care generally, with a significant emphasis on increased community-based supports.

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. The Sláintecare Implementation Strategy commits to the introduction of the new scheme in 2021.

Yours sincerely,



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**On Behalf Of**  
**Sandra Tuohy**  
**Assistant National Director – Operations**  
**Services for Older People**