



Denise Tighe, General Manager, National Services for Older People

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Tuesday 30 April 2024

Deputy Joan Collins

Dáil Éireann,

Leinster House,

Kildare Street,

Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 17819/24

Dear Deputy Collins,

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.

To ask the Minister for Health the number of requests made to the HSE for a meals on wheels service for individuals via the public health nurse in 2023; and the percentage of those requests that were approved, in tabular form. -Joan Collins

Meals on Wheels (MOW) services are provided and managed by community and voluntary organisations. There are currently 317 Meals on Wheels Organisations in operation across the country delivering on average 239,000 meals monthly to approximately 19,000 clients monthly.

While the HSE provides funding to these organisations, requests for a MOW service are managed by the MOW providers themselves. Clients do not request the Meals on Wheels services directly from the HSE. Therefore, the HSE cannot provide the number of requests made for a MOW service via Public Health Nurses.

Records of initial informal contact with Meals on Wheels services on behalf of clients are not maintained by the Public Health Nursing service. Public Health Nurses provide information regarding local Meals on Wheels services to clients and families who request the information or need the service. In cases where a client does not have family to support with meals or is unable to cook for himself or herself, the Public Health Nurse would recommend Meals on Wheels services in the area. In some instances, the Public Health Nurse will make the initial referral to the service on behalf of the client but the client or family member would have responsibility for further engaging with the local Meals on Wheels service.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Tighe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'T'.

Denise Tighe
General Manager
National Services for Older People