



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Seirbhísí Míchumais Náisiúnta  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,  
Caladh an Treoigh,  
Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
National Disability Services  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,  
Limerick.

29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Deputy John Lahart,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
E-mail: [john.lahart@oireachtas.ie](mailto:john.lahart@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive 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: 9522/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of persons with disabilities that received home support hours in CHO7 in 2023; the number of persons with disabilities in 2023 that received personal assistance hours in CHO7 in 2023; the total number of hours provided in each category in CHO7 in 2023; the target number of hours for each category in CHO7 in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

**HSE Response**

The HSE provides a range of assisted living services including Personal Assistant and Home Support Services to support individuals to maximise their capacity to live full and independent lives.

PA and Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers.

Services are accessed through an application process or through referrals from public health nurses or other community based staff. Individuals' needs are evaluated against the criteria for prioritisation for the particular services and then decisions are made in relation to the allocation of resources. Resource allocation is determined by the needs of the individual, compliance with prioritisation criteria, and the level of resources available. As with every service there is not a limitless resource available for the provision of home support services and while the resources available are substantial they are finite. In this context, services are discretionary and the number of hours granted is determined by other support services already provided to the person/family.

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Table 1 below provides data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2014 - 2022. The HSE has consistently, year on year, increased the number of hours of PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability.



**Table 1: Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2014-2022**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,335,759	1,482,492	1,510,116	1,516,727	1,639,481	1,652,030	1,781,310	1,700,309	1,746,136
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,224	2,369	2,427	2,470	2,535	2,551	2,673	2,613	2,669
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,614,967	2,777,569	2,928,914	2,930,000	3,138,939	3,036,182	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146
Home Support – No. People availing of service	7,312	7,219	7,323	7,492	7,522	7,321	6,792	6,902	7,164

**Activity Data for 2023**

As per the National Service Plan 2023, the HSE is committed to deliver an additional 70,370 personal assistant hours to expand and enhance the supports for people to live self-directed lives in the community. The figures for Quarter 2, 2023 are in line with national targets and are provided below.

As per the National Service Plan 2023, the HSE is committed to deliver 3.12 million hours of Home Support Services to 7,326 people.

We envisage that we will be on target for 2023, however, due to the Industrial Action, the full dataset for 2023 is not available as yet.

Please see Tables 1 and 2 below which gives end of Quarter 2, 2023 information. Data is provided quarterly one month in arrears. Please note that, as mentioned above, due to the recent FORSA industrial action, this is the most recent data available at this time.

Information relevant to CHO 7 is highlighted in yellow.

**Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 2, 2023**

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2023 (up to end Quarter 2)	2023 (Quarter 2)
National Total	2,708	850,298
CHO Area 1	76	28,452
CHO Area 2	559	178,896
CHO Area 3	470	165,688
CHO Area 4	464	68,290
CHO Area 5	334	78,430
CHO Area 6	116	36,713
CHO Area 7	87	38,827
CHO Area 8	381	111,229
CHO Area 9	221	143,772

**Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, Quarter 2, 2023**

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2023 (up to end Quarter 2)	2023 (Quarter 2)



<b>National Total</b>	<b>6,500</b>		<b>1,741,307</b>
CHO Area 1	535		179,335
CHO Area 2	603		137,490
CHO Area 3	653		178,769
CHO Area 4	715		128,434
CHO Area 5	744		176,323
CHO Area 6	459		165,089
<b>CHO Area 7</b>	<b>901</b>		<b>221,209</b>
CHO Area 8	881		335,145
CHO Area 9	1,009		219,513

The need for increased services is acknowledged and the HSE continues to work with agencies to explore various ways of responding to this need in line with the budget available.

### National Service Plan 2024

As per the National Service Plan 2024, the HSE will:

- Improve the delivery of a range of specialist community-based disability services and increase service capacity for people with a disability throughout life in the areas of day, respite, multidisciplinary, residential, home support, neuro-rehabilitation and personal assistant services using the resources available, including:
- Delivery of additional personal assistant hours to support persons with a disability in their own communities, within available funding.

With regard to personal assistant services, expected activity for 2024, as per the 2024 Service Plan, is 1.85 million PA service hours will be delivered to 2,740 adults with a physical and / or sensory disability.

With regard to Home Support, expected activity for 2024, as per the 2024 Service Plan, is 3.48m hours will be delivered to 7,326 people with disabilities.

Information per CHO area is not available as yet.

In addition, the 2024 Service Plan references that a new HSE-led Disability Services procurement framework for home support is planned to be developed and agreed in Q2 2024. Targets may be adjusted accordingly.

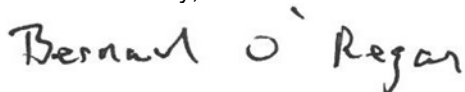
### Future Planning

With regard to additional PA and Home Support Services, the Department of Health's 2021 Disability Capacity Review advises that up to €15 million per year by 2032 – equivalent to 600,000 additional hours - is needed to meet the requirements for Personal Assistants and Home Support.

The Action Plan for Disability Services 2024 – 2026 advises that 800,000 extra PA hours and 110,000 extra hours a year is required by 2026 to address shortfall in services and to support individuals with disabilities to live a fuller more independent life and participate in normal activities in the community, in line with UNCRPD Article 19.

Each CHO continues to actively manage applications for support from service users with high levels of acuity/safeguarding risks, through active case-management and inter-agency cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr Bernard O'Regan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**

