



**Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,**  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

**Office of the Head of Operations,**  
Disability Services/Social Care Division,  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick.

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18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan,  
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Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary questions, which were submitted to this department for response.

**PQ: 56748/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people with a disability in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area as of 1 December 2023 or latest date available; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting less than 6, between 6-12, 12-18 and more than 18 months, in tabular form.*

**PQ: 56749/23**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people with a disability in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 1 December 2023 or latest date available; the number of people currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area; and the number waiting less than 6, between 6-12, and the number waiting less than 6, between 12-18, and more than 18 months, in tabular form.*

**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.

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 this is the most recent data available at this time.

**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)
National Total	6,500		1,741,307
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
CHO Area 7	901		221,209
CHO Area 8	881		335,145
CHO Area 9	1,009		219,513

Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

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.

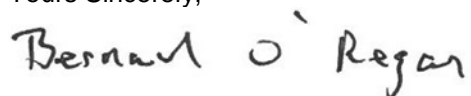
### **Future Planning**

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,



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

