



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Deputy Duncan Smith,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Questions, which was submitted to this Department for response.

**PQ 32874/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the funding provided for the Home Support Service in 2024; the number of home care packages funded; the projected additional cost of providing a home care package to every identified case in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 32875/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of home care and home help hours funded in 2023, and 2024 respectively, and the amount not utilised due to staffing shortages; 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, having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the service. The volume and type of service provided to each client is based on individually assessed care needs and will vary dependent on the needs identified and the resources available to meet those needs.

Funding approval is expedited across the system to ensure minimum waiting times, however due to capacity issues there may be delays between the approval of funding and the availability of carers to commence delivery of home support hours in certain regions.

- As of **30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**, the year to date (YTD) target relating to Home Support service delivery stood at **10,894,638**. As of the same date, **11,279,502** Home Support hours were delivered nationally, representing a +3.5% variance on target YTD.
- As of **31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**, the total target relating to Home Support service delivery stood at **22m**. As of the same date, **22,115,738** Home Support hours were delivered nationally, representing **+0.5%** variance on target at year end 2023.
- The projected full year cost of providing a Home Support package to all clients on the waiting list, based on average number of hours per client per week and average overall hourly rate (as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024) would be in the region of **€64m**.

*Please note 2024 data quoted is preliminary and may be subject to change. Data return rate at June 2024 YTD was **96.9%**.*

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' and 'J'.

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**Kathleen Jordan**  
Head of Service – Home Support  
Services for Older People – Access and Integration