



2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Deputy Ged Nash,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Nash,

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 32971/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 465 of 26 June 2024, the number of people for each CHO area who are currently on panels awaiting appointment as HSE-employed homecare workers, to 1 July 2024; the number of additional HSE-employed homecare workers that will be directly appointed this year across all CHOs, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**PQ 32972/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health the plans the HSE has to extend the homecare support services to weekends; if he will provide a full-year costing for this; 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.

Demand for home support continues to increase due to population growth and the increasing dependency of the growing numbers of people aged ≥80years, within the over 65 years' cohort. Recruitment and retention of home support staff for both direct and indirect service provision remains a significant challenge leading to capacity issues across the Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). The home support service is managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each Community Healthcare Organisation/Health Region to ensure that this key service is available at the required times, in a flexible way and at the appropriate standard to support clients' assessed needs.

Home Support for Older People are provided either by directly employed staff of the HSE, or by voluntary and private providers who have formal tender arrangements with the HSE to deliver the services. With regard to recruitment of direct Home Support staff, the HSE conducts local rolling recruitment campaigns across the CHOs. A process is in place across the HSE, whereby service areas may seek approval for the recruitment of certain grades of staff, including Home Care Assistants (Home Support) to assist with patient flow.

In relation to your query around panels formed in respect of Home Support workers nationally, please note that such panels are managed locally in each CHO, and as such, this information is not collated nationally.

In relation to your query with regard to the HSE extending the Home Support service to include weekends and the associated costs for same, please note that the Home Support service operates 24/7 and is managed locally in line with available resources, taking into account planned and unplanned leave, as necessary.

**Appendix 1.** Details Healthcare Assistants (Home Support) directly employed by the HSE by CHO to the latest available data YTD as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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**

**Appendix 1: Health Care Assistants (Home Support) directly employed by the HSE per CHO as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

CHO	Description	2024
		Headcount
<b>National Total</b>		<b>5,057</b>
<b>CHO1</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	1,040
<b>CHO2</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	480
<b>CHO3</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	514
<b>CHO4</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	1,456
<b>CHO5</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	803
<b>CHO6</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	-
<b>CHO7</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	167
<b>CHO8</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	597
<b>CHO9</b>	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	-