

28th May 2024

Deputy Padraig O’Sullivan, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 23751/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of home support hours being provided in each LHO in CHO 4 as of 1 May 2024 or the latest date available; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for home support hours in each LHO in CHO4; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O’Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Despite a significant level of service provision, the demand for home support nationally and regionally continues to grow as the population aged over 65 years increases. Improving access to home support is a Government and HSE priority.

The majority of clients who are prescribed Home Support in this CHO have a service commence almost immediately. However, on occasion, part of the prescribed service may not be put in place - this would be predominantly down to lack of carer availability in the area. Many of our clients are allocated full or partial service shortly after application. Our waiting list is made up of both clients who are awaiting a new service (i.e. currently are not in receipt of any service), and clients who are awaiting additional hours/part of the originally prescribed service (i.e. they are receiving some home support).

The below table details the number of home support hours being provided in each LHO as at the end of April 2024 and the number of persons currently on the waiting list for home support hours in each LHO:

Home Support Hours and Waiting Lists by LHO – CHO 4	South Lee	West Cork	North Lee	North Cork	Kerry	Totals
Total Home Support Hours Provided as at 30 th April 2024	261,312	116,627	194,375	141,300	285,880	999,494
Number of persons waitlisted for new service as at 30 th April 2024	529	72	100	43	46	790
Number of persons waitlisted for additional service/part of originally prescribed service as at 30 th April 2024	248	62	57	34	44	445

When a request for home support is received, our priority is to identify availability to deliver that support. Capacity is sought both within our own home support service and with our approved

private providers. However, increasingly, our private providers are experiencing similar recruitment and retention issues to ourselves, resulting in some applications being waitlisted until availability arises within either sector (HSE or private).

We continue to endeavour to deliver a home support service to as many clients as possible in the face of a challenging employment environment, the current temporary recruitment pause and the ongoing increased demand for home support.

I trust this clarifies the position. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Jackie Daly
Head of Service for Older People

