



21st November 2024.

**Deputy Roisin Shortall,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 45273/24

To ask the Minister for Health the current hourly direct cost and indirect cost of delivery home care; and the total cost of direct and indirect delivery of home care in each of the years from 2020 to 2023. -Róisín Shortall.

PQ 45274/24

To ask the Minister for Health to provide a percentage split of home care service provision between direct and indirect delivery (details supplied). -Róisín Shortall.

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. 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.

The latest preliminary activity available reflects the period to end of September 2024 YTD. As of this date, 17.08m hours were delivered to 54,539 people, representing +3.3% on target for the period. The average cost per hour of providing Home Support Services at Sept YTD is €32.74. The percentage split of service provision was 37% (direct), with 63% (indirect). *(Please note that data quoted is understated for the period due to a data gap in one LHO.)*

Your request for information relating to expenditure on both direct and indirect (private and voluntary) home support providers, funded through Older Persons Services, in the years specified, is appended to this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Jordan
Head of Service
Services for Older People, Access and Integration

Appendix 1 – Home Support Service Provision Expenditure: 2020 to 2023.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Expenditure				
Direct Provision	174,981,986	186,890,947	216,009,032	238,085,320
Total Expenditure				
Indirect Provision	266,074,151	342,027,540	368,145,918	434,994,364
Total Expenditure	441,056,137	528,918,487	584,154,950	673,079,684