



**Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,**  
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,  
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,  
Caladh an Treoigh,  
Luimneach.

**Office of the Assistant National Director,**  
National Disability Team,  
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park,  
Castletroy,

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Deputy David Cullinane,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.-  
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Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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: 39664/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of patients on home support waiting lists for a carer at the end of each quarter of each year 2019-2024, inclusive; and the breakdown, by length of wait, in tabular form.*

**PQ: 39665/24**

*To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of people who are receiving less than their full allocation of home support hours at the end of each quarter of each year 2019-2024.*

**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.



**With regard to the questions asked, while this information is not collated nationally**, in the normal course of service delivery, at local CHO level, there will be ongoing reviews throughout the year to ensure that if needs change the service provided will address this change within available resources. An individual's PA or Home Support hours may be adjusted following a service review where service demand can result in one individual's service being reduced in order to address priority needs of other people with disabilities within that community.

Currently, each CHO has a process to manage applications and referrals for PA and Home Support Services. While many individuals are adequately provided for by their current level of support, it is also the case that many would benefit from more support hours if they were available.

**Recruitment of carers to provide Home Support Services**

As mentioned above, Home Support Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary and commercial service providers.

Service Providers of Home Support services are responsible for their own recruitment and retention of personnel to provide the required services.

Recruitment in the HSE is conducted both nationally (through HR National Recruitment Service) and at CHO level by local recruitment teams.

All recruitment undertaken, focuses on campaigns to attract qualified and eligible candidates in an effort to increase the potential candidate pool. The HSE and Service Providers continue to explore a wide range of options and initiatives to enhance the retention and recruitment of essential staff across all aspects of the health services.

The HSE Careers Hub allows potential candidates to register their interest in specific areas and in turn, these individuals will be notified of all recruitment in those areas in which they have expressed their interest.

The HSE is operating in a very competitive global market for healthcare talent as there are significant shortages of qualified healthcare professionals across the globe.

**Home Support hours provided**

**Activity Data Quarter 2 2024: Home Support Services**

The delivery of Home Support Services has remained steady during the first half of 2024; Home Support Services delivered 1,882,693 hours to end Q2 2024, which was 8.2% ahead of the NSP target and significantly ahead of the same period last year.

See Table below. Breakdown per CHO area.

Table 1 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Quarter 2 2024

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	Q2 2024		Q2 2024
<b>National Total</b>	<b>6,935</b>		<b>1,882,693</b>
CHO Area 1	1,009		276,935
CHO Area 2	566		136,629
CHO Area 3	695		181,638
CHO Area 4	627		106,162
CHO Area 5	791		199,465
CHO Area 6	506		180,516
CHO Area 7	850		223,257
CHO Area 8	710		218,533



CHO Area 9	1,181		359,559
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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.

### Investment

Funding for PA and Home Supports services has increased year and year. Please see the table below.

Table 2

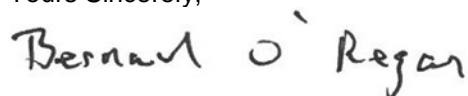
Service area	2018 Funding €000	2019 Funding €000	2020 Funding €000	2021 Funding €000	2022 Funding €000	2023 Funding €000
PA & Home Support	80,957	84,909	94,885	100,613	109,809	115,191
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>1,772,300</b>	<b>1,903,625</b>	<b>2,054,500</b>	<b>2,210,900</b>	<b>2,347,380</b>	<b>2,518,552</b>

### 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**  
**Assistant National Director**  
**National Disability Team**

