



Oifig an Stúirthóra Náisunta Cúnta,
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta –
Rochtain & Comhtháthú
Aonad 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tullach Mhór, Co Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

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22nd October 2024.

Deputy Martin Browne,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Browne ,

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 39894/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting home care support in County Tipperary; the number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in County Tipperary; the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Martin Browne

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 cross 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.

As the HSE is currently transitioning to the new Regional Health Areas (RHAs) structure in line with Sláintecare and pending finalisation of the structures and the associated data reporting pathways, the Home Support activity data requested is provided at CHO level.

With regard to your request for data relating to, "*the number of persons waiting home care support in County Tipperary*", please note that as this county spans across both CHO3 and CHO5, data has been provided as such and is detailed in the accompanying appendices below. Please also note that data quoted is preliminary in nature and may be subject to change.

With regard to your request for data relating to, "*the number of hours allocated in each of the past 12 months in County Tipperary and the average number of hours granted to each successful applicant*", please note that this data is not currently collated nationally. The information relating to these aspects may be available locally. In the absence of same, preliminary data available suggests that as at 31st August 2024 YTD, the average number of hours per person in receipt of Home Support in CHO3 & CHO5 was 6.8 hours per week.

Please see:

- Appendix 1a – Number of People Waiting on a Carer to be Assigned in CHO3 and CHO5 – January 2024 to August 2024.
- Appendix 1b – Number of People Waiting on a Carer to be Assigned in CHO3 and CHO5 – August 2023 to December 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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

Appendix 1a

Number of People Waiting on a Carer to be Assigned in CHO3 and CHO5 – January 2024 to August 2024

Carers - Total [New & Additional]

CHO	Description	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24
CHO3	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	772	715	794	763	752	737	713	771
CHO5	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	822	901	869	876	826	801	742	726

Appendix 1b

Number of People Waiting on a Carer to be Assigned in CHO3 and CHO5 – August 2023 to December 2023

Carers - Total [New & Additional]

CHO	Description	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
CHO3	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	666	870	864	773	761
CHO5	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	974	920	843	825	877

Waiting on Carers – New refers to to the number of people waiting for New Home Support service i.e. who are not already in receipt of Home Support service, in the community (on the last day of the month).

Waiting on Carers - Additional refers to the Number of people already in receipt of Home Support services and waiting for Additional Home Support service in the community (on the last day of the month).