



29th October 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 Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 41323/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on a waiting list for homecare packages; the number of persons experiencing delayed discharge from hospital due to a delay accessing homecare; and the waiting lists for homecare packages, by CHO and LHO, in tabular form. -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. 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.

Available waiting list data reflects those that have been assessed and waiting for the provision of Home Support as at 30th September 2024. Please see **Appendix 1** which details the number of clients assessed and waiting for Home Support Services at 30th September 2024, by CHO. As of this date, the total number of people assessed and waiting for a carer to be assigned stood at 4,689 with no clients awaiting on funding. Of the 4,689 waiting on a carer to be assigned, 2,041 are new clients and 2,648 are existing clients waiting on additional service. Please note this data is preliminary and may be subject to change.

With regard to delayed discharges, available data indicates that on 24th September 2024, 412 people were recorded as a delayed transfer of care. Of the 412, 43 were categorised as Type A Destination Home, with 29 of these people waiting for a carer to be assigned.

You will note the Home Support data quoted above, is provided at CHO level. The HSE is currently transitioning to the new Regional Health Areas (RHAs) structure in line with Sláintecare. Pending finalisation of the structures and the associated data reporting pathways, Home Support data is provided at CHO level.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray, textured rectangular background.

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

Appendix 1 – Details the number of people waiting on a carer (new and additional) at 30th September 2024, by each CHO.

Home Support Waiting List - Waiting on Carers

CHO	Description	2024		
		Total	New	Additional
National Total		4,689	2,041	2,648
CHO1	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	797	366	431
CHO2	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	299	92	207
CHO3	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	782	217	565
CHO4	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	1,100	657	443
CHO5	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	685	179	506
CHO6	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	286	114	172
CHO7	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	288	288	-
CHO8	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	447	123	324
CHO9	Waiting on Carers - New & Additional	5	5	-