



29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Deputy Robert Troy,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Troy,

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 42215/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health to outline the vacancies in home care attendants for each CHO region, and to include the length of each vacancy. -Robert Troy**

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 overall Home Support resource and the range of approved providers, including HSE directly employed staff, is carefully managed by the local Home Support Management Team within each Community Healthcare Organisation, 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 available activity data reflects the period to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024. As of this date, there were 5,024 Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) employed with the HSE nationally. Please see Table 1 hereunder for a breakout of this data by CHO area. Please note that the data requested in relation to "*the vacancies in home care attendants for each CHO region, and to include the length of each vacancy*", is held locally and not currently collated nationally. While this information may be available locally, it would take considerable resources to collate this nationally.

Yours sincerely,

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

Table 1. HCA directly employed by the HSE by CHO.

Home Support Staffing - Healthcare Assistant (Home Support) Directly Employed

CHO	Description	2024 YTD (Aug)
		Headcount
<b>National Total</b>		<b>5,024</b>
CHO1	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	1,060
CHO2	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	476
CHO3	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	516
CHO4	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	1,416
CHO5	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	797
CHO6	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	-
CHO7	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	167
CHO8	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	592
CHO9	Healthcare Assistant (Home Support)	-