



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse – Daoine Aosta  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Chabháin,  
Dhún na nGall, Liatroim, Mhuineacháin, Shligigh  
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Aras na mBricí Dearga  
Páirc Gno Fhionasclainn, Finonasclainn,  
Sligeach F91 H2VR

Head of Service – Older Persons  
Community Healthcare Cavan,  
Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo  
Health Service Executive  
Red Brick Building  
Finisklin Park, Finisklin,  
Sligo F91 H2VR  
[www.hse.ie@hselive](http://www.hse.ie@hselive)  
m: 087 274 8095 / 087 177 9800  
e: [frank.morrison@hse.ie](mailto:frank.morrison@hse.ie)

11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

Deputy Pearse Doherty  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 43676/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health if a recruitment embargo is in place within the HSE home support service in County Donegal in the older persons service and disability service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Doherty

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The establishment of Health Regions allows each area to plan and deliver services around the specific needs of people in each area, and to provide a consistent quality of care across the country. Each region has its own budget, leadership team and responsibility for local decision-making.

The HSE recruitment embargo ended on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 with the release of a Pay and Numbers Strategy which was approved by the Department of Health and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The HSE West North West Region has been provided with its own specified number of WTEs and we can, within that approved number, replace, recruit and prioritise posts. This provides greater flexibility for Health Regions and national services to respond to the needs of the population and prioritise posts appropriately.

However, it is important to note that while the resources allocated for home care across the system is substantial, it is finite and service delivery must therefore be delivered within the funding available and remain within the pay & numbers strategy.

Donegal Home Support Staffing has increased during 2023 and 2024 which has facilitated the Service to reach and exceed the target hours for home support delivery in both 2023 and 2024 YTD.

The target for the delivery in 2024 of Home Support in Donegal is set at 1,249,536 hours. Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to the end of September 2024. As of September 2024 a total of 1,053,968 home support hours were delivered across Donegal. The September forecast projects to year end that the delivery of Home Support in Donegal will be 1,407,855 hours in 2024. This would indicate Home Support Services in Donegal are operating at 158,319 (12.7%) hours above the national service plan target set for 2024.



When comparing the home support hours delivered in Donegal for 2023 with the forecast for 2024, this indicates a year-on-year increase of 157,062 hours (12.6%).

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Morrison', written over a horizontal line.

**Frank Morrison**  
**Head of Service Older Persons**