



Oifig an Stiúirthóir 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,
Limerick.

4th October 2024

Deputy Cathal Crowe,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: cathal.crowe@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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: 37799/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of home support hours provided to persons with disabilities in each LHO area in each of the years 2020 to 2023; and the projected number to be provided in each LHO area in 2024.

PQ: 37800/24

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of personal support hours provided to persons with disabilities in each LHO area in each of the years 2020 to 2023; and the projected number to be provided in each LHO area in 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.

PA and Home Support hours provided

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Table 1 below provides data for PA and Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability from 2020 – to end of Quarter 2 2024. Tables 2 and 3 provide 2024 figures. With regard to breakdown of PA and Home Support hours delivered in each area in each of the years 2020 to 2023, please see Appendix 1.

Table 1: Figures for PA and Home Support Services Delivered to People with a Disability 2020-end of Quarter 2 2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023	End of Q2 2024
PA Services – Number of Hours	1,781,310	1,700,309	1,746,136	1,686,227	925,522
PA Services –No. People availing of service	2,673	2,613	2,669	2,728	2,865
Home Support – Number of Hours	2,939,541	2,949,806	3,369,146	3,544,938	1,882,693
Home Support – No. People availing of service	6,792	6,902	7,164	7,026	7,023

Table 2: PA Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Q2 2024

CHO	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered	
	Q2 2024	Target full year 2024	Q2 2024	Target full year 2024
National Total	2,865	2,740	925,522	1,850,000
CHO Area 1	156	138	42,829	70,331
CHO Area 2	562	530	206,867	382,094
CHO Area 3	465	480	187,298	336,340
CHO Area 4	584	436	91,368	128,844
CHO Area 5	357	361	76,103	176,304
CHO Area 6	118	123	39,043	82,882
CHO Area 7	83	92	36,122	85,345
CHO Area 8	339	344	99,795	215,405
CHO Area 9	201	236	146,097	372,454

Table 3: Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Quarter 2 2024



CHO	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered	
	Q2 2024	Target full year 2024	Q2 2024	Target full year 2024
National Total	6,935	7,326	1,882,693	3,480,000
CHO Area 1	1,009	844	276,935	395,908
CHO Area 2	566	637	136,629	249,350
CHO Area 3	695	657	181,638	356,324
CHO Area 4	627	758	106,162	240,821
CHO Area 5	791	910	199,465	341,737
CHO Area 6	506	490	180,516	331,108
CHO Area 7	850	894	223,257	416,467
CHO Area 8	710	1,089	218,533	624,988
CHO Area 9	1,181	1,047	359,559	523,298

The delivery of PA and Home Support Services has remained steady during the first half of 2024; PA Services delivered 925,522 hours to end Q2, which is ahead of the NSP target by -0.1%, and 8.2% ahead of the same period last year. This is reflective of the allocation in the NSP 2024 of additional personal assistant hours to support persons with a disability in their own communities. Home Support Services delivered 1,882,693 hours to end Q2, which was 8.2% ahead of the NSP target and significantly ahead of the same period last year (data reported quarterly one month in arrears).

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. The current level of PA service includes an over 15% increase in PA hours totalling 270,370 hours in the National Service Plans since 2020 as follows:

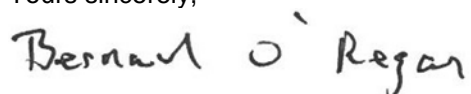
- 2020 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2021 = 40,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2022 = 120,000 additional hours of personal assistant supports
- 2023 = 70,370 additional personal assistant hours.

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



Appendix 1

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2020. (PA and Home Support)

Table 4 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2020

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2020	2020
National Total	2,673	1,781,310
CHO Area 1	228	128,050
CHO Area 2	471	324,017
CHO Area 3	459	335,308
CHO Area 4	474	143,951
CHO Area 5	383	164,506
CHO Area 6	12	29,028
CHO Area 7	104	108,971
CHO Area 8	263	174,195
CHO Area 9	279	373,285

Table 5 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2020

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2020	2020
National Total	6,792	2,939,541
CHO Area 1	721	330,502
CHO Area 2	1,087	210,684
CHO Area 3	486	201,776
CHO Area 4	612	241,932
CHO Area 5	840	327,558
CHO Area 6	545	351,540
CHO Area 7	812	355,122
CHO Area 8	862	511,666
CHO Area 9	827	408,761

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2021. (PA and Home Support)

Table 6 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2021

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2021	2021
National Total	2,613	1,700,309
CHO Area 1	229	125,488
CHO Area 2	491	348,127
CHO Area 3	475	345,261
CHO Area 4	404	136,841



CHO Area 5	364		150,992
CHO Area 6	21		29,044
CHO Area 7	101		100,830
CHO Area 8	296		182,513
CHO Area 9	232		281,214

Table 7 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2021

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2021		2021
National Total	6,902		2,949,806
CHO Area 1	742		373,219
CHO Area 2	1,081		232,883
CHO Area 3	465		202,384
CHO Area 4	532		246,788
CHO Area 5	811		328,376
CHO Area 6	560		369,394
CHO Area 7	766		345,918
CHO Area 8	1,088		557,936
CHO Area 9	857		292,907

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2022. (PA and Home Support)

Table 8 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2022

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2022		2022
National Total	2,669		1,746,136
CHO Area 1	169		81,250
CHO Area 2	527		361,589
CHO Area 3	440		325,278
CHO Area 4	413		119,461
CHO Area 5	364		166,780
CHO Area 6	128		88,248
CHO Area 7	94		85,124
CHO Area 8	282		175,032
CHO Area 9	252		343,374

Table 9 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2022

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2022		2022
National Total	7,164		3,369,146
CHO Area 1	893		464,473
CHO Area 2	605		232,186
CHO Area 3	596		331,907
CHO Area 4	728		234,953



CHO Area 5	911		348,798
CHO Area 6	495		356,508
CHO Area 7	774		409,506
CHO Area 8	1161		530,612
CHO Area 9	1001		460,203

The following tables provide details of the number of hours of service delivered and the number of people with a disability in receipt of services in 2023. (PA and Home Support)

Table 10- PA Services for Persons with a Disability, 2023

	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services		Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
CHO	2023		2023
National Total	2,728		1,686,227
CHO Area 1	86		59,405
CHO Area 2	576		357,895
CHO Area 3	474		339,469
CHO Area 4	458		124,209
CHO Area 5	371		156,605
CHO Area 6	119		72,760
CHO Area 7	96		77,251
CHO Area 8	322		207,919
CHO Area 9	226		290,714

Table 11 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, 2023

	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services		Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
CHO	2023		2023
National Total	7,026		3,544,938
CHO Area 1	887		366,637
CHO Area 2	586		264,128
CHO Area 3	638		382,751
CHO Area 4	717		250,267
CHO Area 5	945		396,100
CHO Area 6	446		338,030
CHO Area 7	878		447,973
CHO Area 8	912		547,595
CHO Area 9	1,017		551,456

