



Oifig an Stiúrthóir 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.

5th February 2025

Deputy Eoghan Kenny,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: eoghan.kenny@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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: 1118/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of home support staff, personal assistants; the number of recipients of home support services, personal assistance services; the number of organisations that provide home support services or personal assistance services for people with disabilities that have exited the service in each CHO and composite LHO area for each month in 2023 and to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ: 1119/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of home support staff, personal assistants; the number of recipients of home support services, personal assistance services; the number of organisations that provide home support services or personal assistance services for people with disabilities that have joined the service in each CHO and composite LHO area for each month in 2023 and to date in 2025, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

People who are over 65 years may access a range of Home care supports, which include the services of nurses, home care attendants, care assistants, home helps and the various therapists including physiotherapists and occupational therapists. This reflects the responsive nature of HSE service delivery and takes account of the changing nature of assessed need over time as individual's needs change. However, many adults with a disability who are over the age of 65 years and who began with Disability Services before turning 65, will continue to receive support from Disability Services. **This is particularly prevalent in Personal Assistant services.**



The HSE provides and funds a wide range of specialist disability services to those with physical, sensory, intellectual disability and autism. Services focus on supporting and enabling people with disabilities to maximise their full potential, as independently as possible.

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. 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 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.

As mentioned above, the HSE works in partnership with organisations including Section 38, Section 39, Out of State and For Profit organisations to ensure the best level of service possible is provided to people with a disability, and their families, within the available resources. The majority of specialised disability provision (80%) is delivered through non-statutory sector service providers. The relationship between these providers and the HSE is governed by way of a Service Arrangement (SA) or Grant Aid Agreement (GA) via the nine Community Healthcare Organisations. The HSE currently manages 1,045 Service Arrangement or Grant Aid Agreements with an approximate total of 419 organisations.

Disability services are provided based on the needs of an individual rather than by the actual type of disability or service required and many organisations provide multiple services or mix/variety of services to people with disabilities to meet individual needs and requirements.

Therefore it is not possible to provide information regarding the number of organisations that provide home support services or personal assistance services for people with disabilities.

In that context, it is not possible to provide information regarding the number of organisations that provide home support services or personal assistance services for people with disabilities that have joined the service or who have left the service.

Service Provision

The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) and Home Support Services available to persons with disabilities. Tables 1 and 2 provide data for PA & Home Support Services delivered to people with a disability at the end of Q3 2024.

At the end of Q3 2024: 1,388,530 PA hours were delivered to **2,809** Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability. At the end of Q3 2024; 2,849,350 Home Support hours were delivered to **6,624** Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability.

See Tables below.

Table 1- PA Services for Persons with a Disability, end of Q3 2024

| | Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services | | Number of Hours PA Services Delivered |
|----------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| CHO | Q3 2024 | | Q3 2024 |
| National Total | 2,809 | | 1,388,530 |
| CHO Area 1 | 22 | | 46,446 |
| CHO Area 2 | 578 | | 299,351 |
| CHO Area 3 | 481 | | 285,035 |
| CHO Area 4 | 592 | | 138,493 |



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|------------|-----|--|---------|
| CHO Area 5 | 343 | | 112,116 |
| CHO Area 6 | 114 | | 59,868 |
| CHO Area 7 | 82 | | 53,226 |
| CHO Area 8 | 394 | | 175,489 |
| CHO Area 9 | 203 | | 218,505 |

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

| | Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services | | Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| CHO | Q3 2024 | | Q3 2024 |
| National Total | 6,624 | | 2,849,350 |
| CHO Area 1 | 269 | | 312,912 |
| CHO Area 2 | 629 | | 203,129 |
| CHO Area 3 | 635 | | 264,662 |
| CHO Area 4 | 591 | | 159,496 |
| CHO Area 5 | 945 | | 304,701 |
| CHO Area 6 | 515 | | 268,831 |
| CHO Area 7 | 855 | | 327,637 |
| CHO Area 8 | 981 | | 461,489 |
| CHO Area 9 | 1,204 | | 546,494 |

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.

As per the 2024 Service Plan, the HSE aims to deliver an additional 80,000 hours of personal assistant supports in 2024.

As per the 2024 Service Plan, the HSE aims to deliver an additional 80,000 hours of personal assistant supports in 2024. Information regarding the proposed hours to be delivered in 2025 will be available on publication of the Service Plan for 2025.

The recently published 2025 Service Plan aims for the provision of an additional 95,000 personal assistant and 40,000 home support hours.

Staffing

The HSE's Strategic Workforce Planning and Intelligence Unit has overarching responsibility for the production of employment monitoring reports/Health Service Personnel Census (HSPC), National Absence Report and Staff Turnover Report.

It produces overall employment reports and also by Care Group.

The most recent information available is end of September 2024.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/resources/our-workforce/workforce-reporting/health-services-employment-report-sept-2024.pdf>



The total reported WTE at the end of September for all HSE and S38 organisation staff was 147,557 wte. Of this, it is reported that 12,998 wte were working in Older Persons Services (HSE and S38 staff). This includes all grades and disciplines of staff.

It is not possible to extrapolate from the report the number of PA and Home support staff as these staff wte information are captured in a variety of categories such as Patient and Client Care Staff, Care Staff, Support Staff, Healthcare Assistants and Social Care staff etc.

In addition, it is important to note that these reports refer to staff numbers in the HSE and in S38 organisations **and do not include** staff employed in S39 organisations, Private Organisations or Out of State organisations.

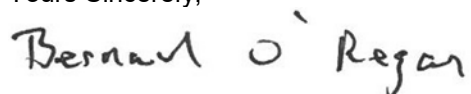
Future Planning

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 and 110,000 extra home support 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

