



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Deputy Michael Moynihan,  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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 3002/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of home support hours in each LHO area as of 01 January 2021 or latest date available in tabular form; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area in tabular form; the number waiting 0-3, 3-6, 6-12 and more than 12 months.*

#### **PQ 3003/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with disabilities in receipt of personal assistance hours in each LHO area as of 01 January 2021 or latest date available in tabular form; the number of persons currently on the waiting list for same in each LHO area in tabular form; the number waiting 0-3, 3-6, 6-12 and more than 12 months.*

#### **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.

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 up to end Q3 in 2020. PA/Home Support data is collated a month in arrears, so Q4 data for 2020 will not be available until late Feb/early March 2021.

Table 1 - PA Services for Persons with a Disability, up to Q3 2020

CHO	Number of Adults with a Physical and Sensory Disability in Receipt of PA Services	Number of Hours PA Services Delivered
	Up to Q3 2020	Up to Q3 2020
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>1,293,183</b>
CHO Area 1	232	91,899
CHO Area 2	449	239,234
CHO Area 3	445	249,505
CHO Area 4	423	104,839
CHO Area 5	390	122,240
CHO Area 6	31	21,786
CHO Area 7	105	78,266
CHO Area 8	294	138,175
CHO Area 9	230	247,240

Table 2 – Home Support Services for Persons with a Disability, up to Q3 2020

CHO	Number of Adults with a disability in Receipt of Home Support Services	Number of Hours Home Support Services Delivered
	Up to Q3 2020	Up to Q3 2020
<b>National Total</b>	<b>6,679</b>	<b>2,183,795</b>
CHO Area 1	706	245,736
CHO Area 2	1,081	163,595
CHO Area 3	472	149,141
CHO Area 4	531	175,223
CHO Area 5	938	240,763
CHO Area 6	597	296,641
CHO Area 7	817	267,962
CHO Area 8	1,115	418,207
CHO Area 9	422	226,526

### Waiting Lists

Whilst there is currently no centrally maintained list of people awaiting these services, each Community Health Organisation Area would be aware of the presenting needs within each of the geographic areas. Following referral and assessment, available resources are allocated to clients with highest level of need.

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.

To provide further support to understanding the future service need for Personal Assistance and Home Support, the Health Research Board provide planning analysis through databases for people with a disability. This is a key planning tool in respect of current service provision and future service needs which are used by the DOH and the HSE. In line with the information available from the National Disability Databases reports and local waiting lists, in excess of 376 people will require Home Support services in the future and 291 people are listed as awaiting PA services. Please note that as the National Disability Databases are not mandatory it is quite possible there is an under reporting of the need.

## Plan for PA and Home Support Service Delivery 2021

In the 2021 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to continue to deliver high quality PA and Home Support Services to 10,000 people with disabilities including 1.71 million PA hours and over 3 million Home Support Hours. This includes the allocation of an additional 40,000 PA hours in accordance with the NSP 2021.

### Roadmap for Reopening

In the context of the Governments Resilience & Recovery Framework (2020 – 2021), the HSE regards the provision of disability services as essential to maintaining a response to people with a disability. All disability services must follow public health guidance in this area, including the prevention and management of COVID-19 related infection. The HSE and its funded disability partners will continue to provide PA and Home Support in line with public health guidance and direction and having regard to the availability of staffing resources.

Reference is drawn to the following HSE weblink which provides updates and guidance for disability service providers, including 'service resumption planning guidance'.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/>

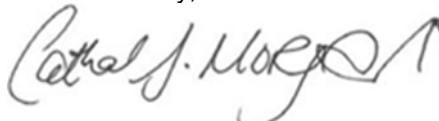
Attention is also drawn to the following important web links which provides up to date information resources in respect of covid.

[www.hspc.ie](http://www.hspc.ie)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

The HSE and Service Providers recognise the critical need and importance of disability supports for people and their families. The impact of COVID-19 on people's lives has and continues to be very significant. Our collective aim is to restore services in a safe way and in line with the very significant investment made by the State and funded agencies and we will continue to work with service users and their families/carers to ensure that we achieve this aim.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,**  
**Head of Operations - Disability Services,**  
**Community Operations**