



Oifig an Cheannasaí Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse - Oibríochtaí

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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Office of the Assistant National Director - Operations

Services for Older People

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4 February 2021

**Deputy David Cullinane, TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 3272/21

To ask the Minister for Health the status of the number of home help delivered in November and December 2020 and January 2021 relative to 2018-2020, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

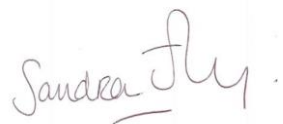
The Home Support Service is funded by Government to deliver a volume of service each year as approved in the HSE National Service Plan. It is a non-statutory service and access to the current service is based on assessment of the person's needs by the HSE and having regard to the available resources and the competing demands for the services from those people with assessed needs.

Preliminary data currently available reflects the period to end of December 2020. As of this date, 17,554,880 home support hours were delivered nationally to 52,853 people. Also, as of this date, there were 2,418 people waiting for funding for new or additional home support. Please see Appendix 1 below for a breakdown of the data as requested. In relation to the data you requested in respect of "*January 2021*", this data is currently not available and is anticipated that it will become available by third week in February 2021 in accordance to data reporting cycles.

As the country moves through the phases of the easing of Government restrictions, the HSE continues to work closely with providers and community staff to identify where service is most required. This is to ensure, insofar as possible, that Home Support Services can continue where needed most. The requirements of physical distancing must be encouraged, supported and maintained so as to keep our staff and service users safe and prevent any further spread of the virus.

The Department is currently engaged in a detailed process to develop a new stand-alone, statutory scheme for the financing and regulation of home support services. Developing a new statutory scheme will be an important step in ensuring that the system operates in a consistent and fair manner for all those who need home support services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director
Services for Older People – Operations

Appendix 1

Total Number of Home Support Hours Delivered 2018 - 2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2018	1,393,270	1,329,864	1,414,203	1,390,525	1,395,293	1,427,565	1,479,417	1,457,719	1,409,557	1,557,779	1,461,343	1,413,917	17,130,453
2019	1,417,649	1,341,792	1,471,538	1,444,387	1,484,889	1,433,561	1,511,738	1,463,539	1,438,726	1,573,087	1,464,671	1,439,885	17,485,462
2020	1,415,165	1,361,349	1,389,025	1,361,320	1,399,844	1,427,609	1,483,447	1,435,332	1,580,159	1,538,827	1,580,771	1,597,036	17,554,880