



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí agus Feabhsúcháin Seirbhísí
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona
Luimneach
Éire

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7th January 2016

Deputy Billy Kelleher,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
e-mail: billy.kelleher@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Kelleher,

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 45699/15

To ask the Minister for Health the number of Personal Assistant Hours provided in 2015; and the full year cost of same.

PQ 46090/15

To ask the Minister for Health how many Personal Assistant Hours will be funded from the health budget in 2016; and the total funding that will be provided.

HSE Response


The HSE is committed to protecting the level of Personal Assistant (PA) services available to persons with disabilities. In the 2016 National Service Plan, the HSE's priority is to provide 1.3 million hours of personal assistance to more than 2,000 people with a disability. This is the same activity level that was funded, in 2014 and 2015.

The HSE exceeded the expected activity level for PA hours in 2015 (1.3m hours) by approximately 100,000 hours. This reflects the responsive nature of the service provided and takes account of the fluctuation of assessed need over time as individuals needs change e.g. taking account of increased / reduced demand at certain times of the year, holiday periods, respite periods, hospital stays etc. PA hours are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure the service is at all times responsive to clients needs and that the hours available are allocated appropriately and in a timely manner.

Disability services are provided based on the needs of an individual rather than by the actual type of disability and again, the HSE can reassure people that everyone who currently has PA hours will retain them as dictated by their needs.

The HSE can confirm that in excess of €30 million is spent on the provision of PA services annually.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marion Meany", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Marion Meany,
Head of Operations and Service Improvement,
Disability Services, Social Care Division**