



The Home Care Sector in Ireland

2026 Quarterly Snapshot

March 2026

IBDO

Home Support Providers Bill 2025

The Health (Amendment) (Home Support Providers) Bill 2025¹ was initiated on the 16th of December 2025. The Bill is currently in the third stage under review by Dáil Éireann.

The Bill aims to introduce a regulatory framework for home support providers centred on a system of registration and inspection.

Purpose of this Bill

Establish a registration and regulatory framework for home support providers to assess compliance with the national quality standards and minimum requirements, set out under Ministerial regulations, in order to safeguard service users, and raise the quality and consistency of care nationally.

Matters addressed in this Bill

- ▶ Registration of home support providers
- ▶ Grounds for refusal or cancellation
- ▶ Inspection of home support premises
- ▶ Requirement to meet national standards expected of home support providers*

The Bill addresses the registration of licensed home support providers as detailed below.

Registration of licensed home support providers

All home support providers must register with the Chief Inspector of Social Services, operating within HIQA, noting that it will be an offence to provide services without registration.

Current home support providers will have 2 years to apply for initial registration upon the enactment of this Bill.

The application requires information of the applicant (provider), the applicant's management, and, if the provider is a part of a group of companies then relevant information relating to the Group shall also be included.

*Draft national quality standards²

In 2024, HIQA developed 'National Standards for Home Support Services' to promote progressive quality improvements in home support services, in preparation for the upcoming home support legislation and regulations.

The principles underpinning the national standards are shown opposite for reference.



Principles underpinning the draft National Standards for Home Support Services



Sources:

1. Houses of Oireachtas - Health (Amendment) (Home Support Providers) Bill 2025: [b8425d.pdf](#)

2. HIQA - Draft National Standards for Home Support Services (November 2024): [Draft-National-Standards-for-Home-Support-Services.pdf](#)

Home Support Providers Bill 2025 (contd.)

The Bill also addresses the renewal of home support licenses and a change in ownership as detailed below¹.

Continued renewals of registrations

The initial registration has effect for 3 years before renewal is required on a 3-year basis.

Renewals will be handled by HIQA and evaluated under the same criterion as the registration, whilst also considering the compliance and performance under the previous registration.

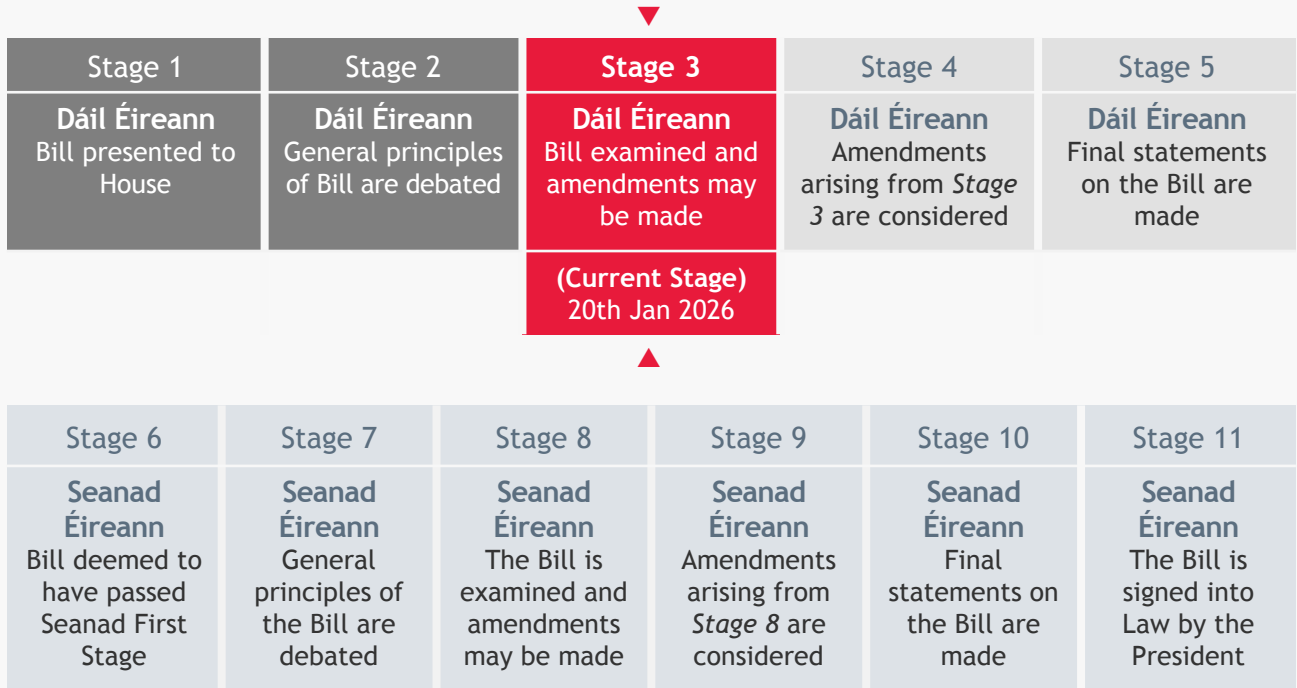
The Bill will enable HIQA to undertake inspections of persons who provide certain support services to older persons and persons with disabilities in their private dwellings and to provide for related matters².

Change of ownership

A new owner must make an application to register before being appointed as owner.

Transitional arrangements for initial registration to be a licensed home support provider, will apply for existing providers only. Further reference regarding a change in ownership is not detailed in the Bill at present.

Status and upcoming stages³



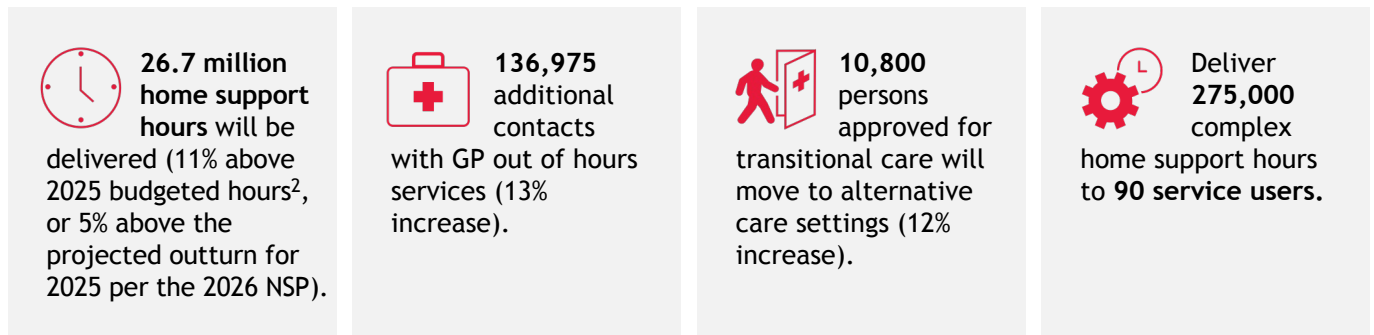
Sources:

- Houses of Oireachtas - Health (Amendment) (Home Support Providers) Bill 2025: [b8425d.pdf](#)
- Bill Digest: <https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/bill/2025/84/eng/digest/lrsdigesthomesupport-190126-94920.pdf>
- Houses of Oireachtas - Health (Amendment) (Home Support Providers) Bill 2025 Timeline: [Health \(Amendment\) \(Home Support Providers\) Bill 2025 - No. 84 of 2025 - Houses of the Oireachtas](#)

National Service Plan 2026¹

The HSE National Service Plan (NSP) for 2026 outlines the healthcare services to be provided to people throughout the year. Listed below are the main goals concerning home support services in 2026.

Priority actions for 2026



The NSP also confirms the HSE's intention to leverage information technology in home support services to enhance administrative efficiency.

Key objectives include:

- ▶ Improving the effectiveness of home support delivery through the development and implementation of an integrated information and communications technology system for both home support services and the Nursing Home Support Scheme (NHSS), allowing for more effective tracking of home support delivery and improved data accuracy.
- ▶ Increasing the number of individuals assessed using the International Resident Assessment Instrument (interRAI), a tool used to evaluate the needs of people requiring home care or long-term care, to meet the national target of 18,100 assessments.

Home support hours

	Projected Outturn 2025	Budget 2025	Budget 2026
Older persons care hours ('000)	25,460	24,000	26,700
No. of people	60,700	60,000	62,000
Increase in 2026 vs 2025 budget			11.3%
Older persons - complex care hours ('000)	265	275	275
No. of service users	84	90	90
Total older persons care	25,725	24,275	26,975
Increase in 2026 vs 2025 budget			11.1%
Disability care hours ('000)	3,860	3,800	3,964
No. of people	7,251	7,326	7,523
Total older persons and disability care hours ('000)	29,585	28,075	30,939
Increase in 2026 vs 2025 budget			10.2%



The NSP 2026 has established a new KPI to track the number of individuals assessed and awaiting home support services (excluding complex home support). The target for 2026 is set at **4,500** – a reduction from 5,377 reported during December 2025³.

Sources:

1. HSE National Service Plan 2026 - [HSE National Service Plan 2026](#)
2. [Care of the Elderly - Thursday, 22 Jan 2026 - Parliamentary Questions \(34th Dáil\) - Houses of the Oireachtas](#)
3. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2025-12-03/12/>

Summary

The long-awaited Home Support Providers Bill is currently progressing towards approval and will introduce new statutory frameworks for home support providers.

Additionally, the NSP 2026 sets a target for home support hours that is approximately 11% higher than budgeted 2025 levels / 5% greater than 2025 projected outturn levels. With the nursing home sector largely at full capacity and very little new developments coming on stream, we anticipate strong growth levels in demand for home care services in the medium and long term.

The 2026 NSP also introduces a new KPI to monitor waiting lists which is an initiative long advocated by the HCCI.

Sector developments have been driven by both current and projected increases in demand. Continued investment in the sector remains essential to meet this demand. BDO notes that, in response to strong demand for home care services, there has been sustained investment in the sector, as demonstrated by the expansion of companies operating in this space.

BDO have assisted many home care operators with their growth plans. Should you wish to discuss access to capital or routes to achieving growth specific to your circumstances, please contact any member of the BDO Home Care team.

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