



29/04/2019

Deputy Mary Butler,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 16172/19:

To ask the Minister for Health if there is support for older persons to assist them in the costs of purchasing a mobility scooter; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Mary Butler

Dear Deputy Butler,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response.

On foot of a request by a Healthcare Professional the HSE directly provides eligible Service Users with essential aids and appliances. The budget for Aids & Appliances (including mobility scooters) is devolved to the Community Health Organisations (CHO). At Area level, spend is prioritised by the Resource Allocation Groups. At present this process is governed by local policy in terms of determining the demand, priority, and allocation of items deemed essential.

Given the requirement to ensure the safety of service users, the HSE must assume responsibility for the servicing repair, and recycling of these items. In order to fulfil these requirements it must retain ownership and, as such, part funding /grant aid is not practical for these high-cost items.

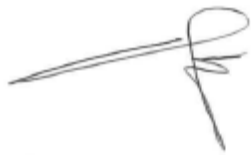
As part of the HSE's Service Improvement Programme for Community Funded Schemes, a work stream was dedicated to standardising provision of aids and appliances, which would encompass such mobility scooters. The Aids & Appliances Work Stream commissioned an Expert Group to draft a National Approved list of Aids and Appliances to ensure equity of access for the Service User and maximise efficiencies for the HSE. Each item was considered in relation to clinical evidence, established practice and cost/benefit analysis.

This National Approved List is on target for publication in Q3 of 2019.

Subsequent to publication, there will be a review process whereby prescribers and other stakeholders can apply to have items considered by an expert panel to be added to the National Approved List.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Siobhán McArdle', written on a light-colored background.

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**Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations**