



18<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Deputy Tom Neville  
 Dáil Eireann,  
 Leinster House,  
 Kildare Street,  
 Dublin 2.

**PQ 25426/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for wheelchairs nationally; the number on a waiting list for the provision of wheelchairs in the HSE west; the number of those waiting less than 12 months, 12 months to 2 years and more than 2 years for a new wheelchair and an upgraded wheelchair; and the estimated cost involved to provide each person on the waiting list with new or upgraded wheelchairs as per the request which was sent on their behalf to the HSE**

-Tom Neville

Dear Deputy Neville,

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

Please see attached Table 1 listing the numbers of persons on waiting lists for wheelchairs, the numbers of persons waiting for a wheelchair or upgraded wheelchair broken down by time waiting (Less than 12 months, 12 months to 2 years and more than 2 years), the estimated cost per person on the waiting list to provide a new or upgraded wheelchair, and any other relevant commentary broken down by CHO.

**Table 1:**

CHO	Total Numbers of Persons on Waiting lists for wheelchairs	Numbers of persons waiting for wheelchairs or upgraded wheelchairs			The estimated costs per person on the waiting list to provide a new or upgraded wheelchair
		<12 months	12 months to 2 years	>2 years	
1	43	43 (Note, figure may not be exact as no asset tagging available in Sligo/Leitrim area)	0	0	€5,130 average cost

2	149	149	0	0	€5688 average cost
3	123	97	14	12	€5864.98 average cost
4	217	193	11	13	€6338.63 average cost
5	0	0	0	0	€5750 average cost
6	60	60	0	0	€4443 average cost
7	18	18	0	0	€7,749.50 average cost
8	33	33	0	0	€4326.83 average cost
9	39	39	0	0	€5797 average cost

The average cost of a wheelchair over the CHOs is €5676.44, ranging from €199, to €20,000 depending on a range of factors e.g. upgrade versus new wheelchair, manual versus automatic, or a new wheelchair needing to be made to fit certain specifications. For this reason, the figure for the estimated cost per person may be considered somewhat distorted.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Siobhán McArdle', written over a horizontal line.

PP

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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations