



15th November 2019

Deputy Willie O'Dea,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 44801/19 - To ask the Minister for Health, if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there is a 3 year waiting list for persons approved for aids and appliances in the mid-west region: when funding will be provided to accommodate such persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter

-Willie O'Dea

Dear Deputy O'Dea,

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.

Currently in the Mid-West region there are 1,838 people on the Aids & Appliances waiting list with 378 of these waiting more than 3 years, broken down as follows:

Waiting List	Limerick	Clare	North Tipperary/East Limerick
0 – 3 years	1160	271	407
3 Years +	252	126	0
Total Waiting	1412	397	407

Most of the items requested for people, particularly those waiting over 3 years are low cost orthotic type appliances that have low risks in comparison to other requests being discussed at the Resource Allocation Group meetings. All applications for Aids & appliances are reviewed and based on the information supplied are prioritised appropriately and placed on the waiting lists.

A working group as part of the overall Aids & Appliances Project currently underway in CHO3 are working on developing a clear pathway for these orthotic type requests. As part of this a number of clinics were run in conjunction with the Podiatry department over the summer months where a lot of the individuals on the waiting lists were reviewed and are due to be taken off the waiting list in the coming weeks. This is not reflected on the waiting list reports at present as follow up calls for fittings have to be completed in a number of cases. These follow up appointments are due to continue until year end with the Podiatry department holding a specific clinic every Wednesday to facilitate these fittings. Once a person has attended this follow up clinic they can then be taken off the waiting list. A validation of the waiting list has also been undertaken. This has been a successful

exercise and which will result in a high number of individuals being taken off the Aids & Appliances waiting list. This model has demonstrated that it will impact positively on waiting lists going forward. We can provide you with updated figures in early 2020 if required.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

PP 

Siobhán McArdle,
Head of Operations Primary Care,
Community Operations