



**8th December 2020**

**Deputy Robert Troy  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.**

**PQ 40354/20 - "To ask the Minister for Health if there are grants available to a person that has to get hearing aids (details supplied).**

**-Robert Troy**

**Details Supplied: I am aware a digital hearing aid is covered under a medical card but the hearing aid this gentleman requires is not digital.**

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Dear Deputy Troy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 40354/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE does not comment on individual cases. The HSE community Audiology service offers hearing aids free to all children under the age of 18 and adults who possess a full and valid medical card.

The Treatment Benefit Scheme is a grant scheme run by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) that provides dental, optical and aural services to qualified people. The scheme is available to insured workers, retired people, and their dependent spouses who have the required number of PRSI Contributions. Under this scheme, hearing aids may be provided by hearing aid audiologists who have a contract with the Department of Social Protection. Further information on the scheme is available via the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/1fb655-treatment-benefit-scheme/#>

The HSE Community Audiology service undertakes a procurement process periodically to ensure that the hearing aids provided are of high quality but also ensuring the utilisation of public funding cost effectively. All of the HSE hearing aids (for adults and children) are multichannel, multi microphone digital hearing aids. We have not provided analogue hearing aids for many years, as this technology is redundant and no longer provided by the hearing aid manufacturers. "

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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**TJ Dunford**

Interim Head of Primary Care Operations  
Community Operations