



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine  
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan  
An Ceantar Theas  
An Bothar Mileata  
Cill Mhaighneann  
BÁC 8

Acute Operations  
Health Service Executive  
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building  
Heuston South Quarter  
Military Road  
Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

28 August 2020

Deputy Sean Canney  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 17778/20** \*To ask the Minister for Health if prosthetics used here are being supplied by a UK company; if so, if additional charges will result in relation to prosthetics after Brexit; his plans to change the providers of such prosthetics if Brexit results in additional charges for users here; and if work is being carried on the subject in advance of Brexit\*

**PQ 17779/20** \* To ask the Minister for Health the provisions in place in relation to the provision of prosthetics for amputees; his views on whether the current regime is acceptable; his further views on low income earners whose income is above the medical card threshold being forced to pay for prosthetics; and if he will make a statement on the matter\*

**PQ 17781/20** \* To ask the Minister for Health his views on the fact that the HSE will fund prosthetics when the repairs necessary to such prosthetics cannot be carried out by the companies involved; and if he will make a statement on the matter\*

Dear Deputy Canney,

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

I am advised that prosthetic services are currently provided by a range of private providers and the cost of prostheses for eligible service users is charged to the HSE. Clinical governance arrangements vary depending on the location where services are accessed. Each CHO governs its own area in terms of budget and funding arrangements. In terms of eligibility criteria, each application for a prosthesis within a CHO is assessed (for medical card and LTI card patients) by the local Resource Allocation Group (RAG) and a determinations made regarding approval based on priority and funding availability within local budgets.

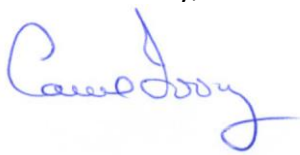
However one of the larger providers of this service for individuals with primary amputations is a service provided by a strategic partnership between the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) and Ability Matters (AM) Irl Limited. The NRH is a publicly funded voluntary hospital which has a long standing HSE approved strategic partnership with AM for the provision of prosthetics, particularly the more complex ones. This process requires HSE approval which follows receipt of a prescription after a clinical assessment is undertaken by an IDT team and Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, in partnership with AM.

All current service providers have been preparing Brexit mitigation plans, linking with UK suppliers where relevant. The NRH has advised that their strategic partner has made the necessary plans to minimise disruption to service delivery. I am advised that a process is underway to identify a national framework of suitable suppliers.

I am advised by the NRH reply that repairs are funded in a similar manner to the funding of prostheses.

I trust that this is of assistance

Yours sincerely,



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**Carol Ivory**  
**General Manager**  
**Acute Operations**