



11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 7980/20 – To ask the Minister for Health the reason different rates of funding are being paid in respect of wigs and hair pieces to medical card holders residing in different areas in the country; if a breakdown of funding based on each local authority will be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Éamon Ó Cuív**

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

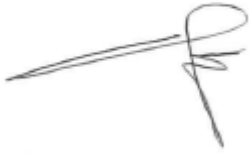
The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The Health Service Executive established an Expert Group for Post-Mastectomy Products, Wigs & Hairpieces (Expert Group) to review the provision of wigs and hairpieces. The Expert Group included consultation with service users including participation in focus groups. The Expert Group is a sub-group of the Aids & Appliances work-stream of the Community Funded Schemes Service Improvement Programme (CFS SIP). The CFS SIP was established in order to standardise HSE provision of aids, appliances and related items, so that irrespective of where someone lives, they have access to the same items as people in other parts of the country. The Expert Group noted significant variations in what is currently provided, including current allowances for wigs and hairpieces. As part of their initial work the Expert Group carried out an exercise to establish the level of wig grants and the results in August 2019 concluded that the average wig grant is €561.39 with a range of grants from €440.00 - €767.00. The Expert Group also made initial proposals for the development of guidelines for the Health Service Executive to standardise the grants paid.

The work of the Expert Group will be given further consideration following the safe return to Health Service Executive non Covid services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Siobhán McArdle', written in a cursive style.

Pp,

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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations