



13<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Fergus O'Dowd TD**  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**PQ 18139/21:**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the grant schemes available to those with medically certified mobility issues to assist in the purchase of mobility scooters; and if he will make a statement on the matter.” -Fergus O'Dowd**

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 18139/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE directly provides eligible Service Users with essential aids and appliances. The budget for Aids & Appliances (including mobility scooters) is devolved to the Community Health Organisations (CHO). At Area level, spend is prioritised by the Resource Allocation Groups. At present, this process is governed by local policy in terms of determining the demand, priority, and allocation of items deemed essential.

Given the requirement to ensure the safety of service users, the HSE must assume responsibility for the servicing repair, and recycling of these items. In order to fulfil these requirements it must retain ownership and, as such, part funding/grant aid is not practical for these high-cost items.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**TJ Dunford**  
Head of Operations; Primary Care.  
Community Operations.