



6th May 2021

Deputy Colm Burke,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 18617/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if there are grants or supports available to subsidise the cost of purchasing a mobility scooter for those who need it; if there are no supports of this nature currently available, if his Department will consider instituting such a support; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (18617/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response.

On foot of a request by a Healthcare Professional, the HSE directly provides eligible persons with essential aids and appliances. The budget for Aids and Appliances (including mobility scooters) is devolved to the Community Health Organisations (CHO). At Area level, spend is prioritised by Resource Allocation Groups (RAG). 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 all persons using our aids and appliances, 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.

As part of the HSE's Service Improvement Programme for Community Funded Schemes, a work stream was dedicated to standardising provision of aids and appliances, which would encompass such mobility scooters. The Aids and Appliances Work Stream commissioned an Expert Group to draft a National Approved list of Aids and Appliances to ensure equity of access for the Service User and maximise efficiencies for the HSE. Each item was considered in relation to clinical evidence, established practice and cost/benefit analysis.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations