



Pat Buckley TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

30th March 2021

PQ 12874/21

“To ask the Minister for Health the average waiting times for the assessment and approval of provision of motorised wheelchairs; and the average length of time it takes to deliver a wheelchair to the applicant. -Pat Buckley”

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 12874/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Assessments of mobility needs including assessments for wheelchairs are primarily carried out by occupational therapy staff. Assessments for wheelchairs depends on the clinical needs and the anticipated use by the client. Referrals for assessment are prioritised based on the service prioritisation system whereby referrals deemed as P1 are immediately prioritised and P2 referrals are seen in the order in which they are received.

The waiting times for assessment vary across each CHO area and are impacted by a number of factors including the number of patients waiting to be assessed at any point in time. The current average waiting times for P1 assessments is approximately 2-3 weeks and the current average waiting time for P2 assessments is approximately 8 months.

If following the assessment of mobility the recommendation is that the patient requires a motorised wheelchair then the patient is initially put on the waiting list for the contracted recycling facility system for the required equipment to become available. If the recommended equipment is not available through the recycling system then the patient is assessed by the equipment provider to determine the most appropriate wheelchair for the patient. The Resource Allocation Groups in the CHO areas then consider the recommendation in the context of needs of the patient and available resources. The current average waiting time from completion of assessment to provision of motorised wheelchairs to patients who require same is approximately 21 weeks.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



TJ Dunford

Head of Operations; Primary Care.
Community Operations.