

14th December, 2021

Mr Johnny Guirke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 56661/21

To ask the Minister for Health the amount spent on hearing aid installations for County Westmeath through the medical card scheme in each of the years 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Johnny Guirke

Dear Deputy Guirke,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

The cost of installations (hearing aids) for adults with hearing loss includes the work up and assessment of the client's hearing, the fitting of the hearing aid and follow up care; this is the bulk of the Community Audiology budget. Unfortunately the service is unable to separate adult and paediatric clients within the budget.

The Audiology budget is held across the 4 counties in the Midlands and we are not in a position to extract Westmeath specific figures from it. Please find attached the budget for Midlands Community Audiology.

Budget for Community Audiology

Midlands

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Actual	323,436	382,868	305,887	238,201	*353,439
Budget	517,436	441,736	268,286	270,714	258,903
<i>*Contains actual cost from Jan - Oct</i>					

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation