



3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

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

**PQ 50381/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the current position in respect of the supply of wheelchairs and other medical devices for 28 children in the children's community health network areas 4 and 5; when the appropriate funding will be made available in order to deal with the waiting time which is in excess of 12 months; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

- Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 50381/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In Carlow/ Kilkenny (including Kilkenny City and North Kilkenny), there is no waiting list for equipment funding at present. Once approved at the Resource Allocation Group the order is placed.

In CHO 4, children are currently on a waiting list for the provision of 5 wheelchairs and 5 other medical devices as of 28<sup>th</sup> October. The longest time on the waiting list is currently 11 months.

CHO 4 sincerely regret the fact that there can be a waiting time for important equipment such as wheelchairs. In some cases, this is due to circumstance beyond their control, such as long lead times when ordering from manufacturers. In other cases, the funding available to them does not meet the demand, and this means that not all applications can be approved immediately or as quickly as they would like. However, CHO 4 are currently reviewing the wait list for aids and appliances and working to allocate funding to a number of priority applications.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

**Seán McArt**  
General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations