



8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 46245/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the eligibility criteria of the HSE aids and appliances scheme; the items available through the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Ruairí Ó Murchú**

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 46245/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Community Funded Schemes is a collective name for all of the many products, supports, supplies, appliances and aids that are provided through community services. Aids and Appliances encompasses a significant proportion of these products and appliances, which number in their many thousands. The actual products and services provided are subject to ongoing assessment and change in line with developments in clinical practice and, as new products are developed and become available to the market. The products are multiple, varied, and diverse, as they cover the full range of aids or appliances that can offer assistance in the community management of individuals with any one or more of the myriad of different medical conditions and impairments that can afflict the members of our community.

As such, the criteria for accessing aids and appliances are many and varied and relate to the particular service, aid or appliance that is being requested. Criteria can be based on; clinical need, demand, General Medical Service's eligibility, compassionate grounds, LTI eligibility, priority listing, resource availability or a combination of these criteria. The eligibility criteria while common in many instances, are specific to the particular service, aid, or appliance that is being requested.

In general, the eligibility for aids and appliances conforms to those for other health services, and were set out in the Health Act 1970. This act provides for two categories of eligibility for all persons ordinarily resident in the state, i.e. full eligibility (medical card) and limited eligibility (all others). Entitlement to a medical card is determined mainly by reference to means, with provision for discretion to grant a card in cases of 'undue hardship' where the income guidelines are exceeded. All other persons who are 'ordinarily resident' in the state have limited eligibility.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt'.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations