



13th October 2021

Deputy Carol Nolan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 46495/21 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will engage with HSE offices to offer the blind welfare allowance payment electronically to recipients going forward; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy Nolan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 46495/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Blind Welfare Allowance (BWA) is part of special services for blind persons under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. It is a means-tested payment from the HSE to people, aged 18 and over, who are blind or visually impaired. In response to your query, we have established that the majority of CHO areas have arrangements in place to offer electronic payment to recipients of Blind Welfare Allowance by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

Blind Welfare Allowance payments are made by cheque or by EFT, whichever is the preference of the recipient. Some recipients when offered the option of EFT choose not to avail. The option of EFT is available once bank details have been established and recipients should contact their local CHO should they wish to change over.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations