



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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29th April 2022

Deputy Seán Canney,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 20167/22 – To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there are lengthy waiting lists for persons requiring wheelchairs in this country; if his attention has been further drawn to cases such as one in County Galway in which a man who is paralysed from the waist down has been waiting five and a half months for his made to measure wheelchair and gel cushion both of which they require urgently; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20167/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I can advise that requests for wheelchairs are assessed and provided on the basis of a priority system. Priority One cases are provided to the service user within a two-week period, and often in a much shorter timeframe.

At present, the Galway area have service users waiting for wheelchairs to facilitate participation in their activities of daily living. These waits can arise due to an ongoing assessment process, their assessed priority level, and delays in the provision of wheelchairs by the suppliers. It is also the case that over recent months, the delivery of some pieces of equipment have been delayed due to supply chain issues.

In relation to the specific case you refer to, we would advise that the service user, or you (if you are authorised on their behalf), directly contact the Galway Occupational Therapy Department and they will be in a position to advise on the matter.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

