



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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9th June 2022

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

PQ 28303/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the reason that different rates of funding are being paid in respect of wigs and hair pieces to medical card holders residing in different areas in the country; if he will provide a breakdown of funding, based on each local authority; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Éamon Ó Cuív

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 28303/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The different rates of allowance paid in respect of wigs and hair pieces in different parts of the country arise due to different historical practices in different areas of the country. This allowance, as with many other community schemes, are funded and managed at a local CHO level. As such, each local areas has had autonomy in determining the exact processes and procedures that they adopt in respect of how they operate these various schemes. Given that many of these schemes were introduced during a period when health services were delivered under the auspices of different health boards, different processes and levels of entitlement are to be found throughout the country.

The HSE with its Community Funded Schemes Service Improvement Programme (CFS SIP) is seeking to introduce agreed national standards and operating procedures in respect of the provision of aids, appliances and other services that are provided in the community including wigs and hair pieces. This is in order to improve the quality of the services that we make available to people living with a wide variety of different medical conditions, and help ensure that there is equality of access irrespective of wherever an individual service user resides.

The present level of allowance for wigs and hair pieces for the different CHOs is set out below.

CHO	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Allowance*	500	500-640	500	450	500	650	750	635	700

Notes

* The CHO will pay up to these maximum amounts. Also, the eligibility criteria may vary a degree between the different CHOs.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations