



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

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

Office of the Head of Operations,
Community Operations - Primary Care

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

www.hse.ie
@hselive

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: community.primarycare@hse.ie

10th June 2022

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

PQ 27997/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the percentage of wheelchairs and other medical aids such as zimmer frames, orthopaedic chairs issued to patients are refurbished and reutilised in cases in which the person no longer requires their use; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Dessie Ellis

Dear Deputy Ellis,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 27997/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In respect of wheelchairs and all other kinds of medical aids that are supplied to service users, it is the policy and practice of the HSE that every effort is made to ensure that all equipment is returned either by service users to their local health service, or arrangements are made to have the equipment collected. Returned equipment is then safety checked, cleaned and refurbished/recycled for client's use. Each item is reviewed and safety checked and those that no longer meet the requirements are set aside.

The percentage of equipment that is reutilised varies between 27- 98%. This variation mainly arises due to variation in geographical locations and, most importantly the particular type of equipment that is being referred to. For example, the reutilisation rate for items such as shower aids would be at the lower end, while items such as beds, hoists and standard wheelchairs would be at the higher end. It is also the case that bespoke pieces of equipment tend to have a lower reutilisation rate compared to standard items. The practice adopted by the CHOs is that where possible every effort is made to ensure that all equipment is refurbished and reutilised.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations

