



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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5th December 2022

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 58939/22

To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for aids and appliances for those under 18 years of age in CHO5 which covers south Tipperary; the length of time that they have been waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position for South East Community Healthcare (formerly CHO 5).

The policy for the provision of aids and appliances covers all ages i.e. there is no differentiation based on age. The pathway/process for accessing aids and appliances commences from the date of when each patient is assessed and 'identified' as requiring it.

If the equipment required is a stock item, it is provided immediately and filled from either:

- Stock Item (Standard item held in stock)
- Central Aids Recycling Service (CAMS) (recycled equipment after return)

If the equipment is a non-stock or specialised piece of equipment, this application is submitted to the Resource Allocation Group (RAG). At RAG, each application is assessed by a Multi-disciplinary Team and based on clinical assessment and a priority rating system, a decision on approval is made. Approved equipment is then processed for order. The RAG in Carlow/Kilkenny and South Tipperary meets once a week.

These are generally specialised non-stock equipment items that require individual fitting and purchase from identified providers. Patients in this cohort would be individually advised of delivery times by their therapist as it is based on manufacturing timelines.

There is currently no waiting list for release of funding for equipment received by RAG in South East Community Healthcare areas.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anna Marie Lanigan".

Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare