



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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DATE: 25.10.2022

**Deputy Paul Murphy,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ / – 50263/22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will consider offering adult medical card holders the option to be assessed and treated by community audiologists who already provide care to working age adults under the Department of Social Protection's treatment benefit scheme given that 34,000 children were waiting more than one year to access community health services, including ophthalmology and audiology, which could free up 12,500 treatment pathways per annum for children and adults with other forms of hearing loss who require the more specialised services of a HSE clinic or hospital audiology service (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Paul Murphy

Dear Deputy,

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

The HSE is committed to delivering efficient high quality Primary Care Audiology services to all eligible service users. In 2021, there were 47,233 patients seen by HSE Community Audiology services.

The HSE continues to look at all viable options to reduce its community audiology waiting lists for adults and children and ensuring high quality care.

Adults who are currently on HSE waiting lists can, provided they have appropriate PRSI contributions, choose to access hearing aids under the treatment benefit scheme with the provider of their choice regardless of their age.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations