



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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

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25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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

**PQ 16865/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the average timeframe wheelchair users are waiting to receive their first wheelchair from application to handover; the average timeframe wheelchair users are waiting for a replacement wheelchair from application to handover; the average cost of replacing a wheelchair; the funding that was allocated for the replacement of wheelchairs over the past five years; the number of people applying for a replacement wheelchair in the past five years; the number of people receiving a replacement wheelchair in the past five years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Pauline Tully**

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 16865/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There is a variety of different types of wheelchairs being provided by the HSE for service users. These range from standard non-powered wheelchairs, to complex bespoke specialised chairs. Consequently, the process from application for a wheelchair to receipt of same can vary greatly. The process may include all or some of the following stages; clinical assessment of the need, risk assessment, expenditure approval, ordering and manufacturing process, shipping and delivery.

As such, the HSE is not in a position to provide you with average wait time that you request. The range of wait time can be anything from one to two days for standard or off the shelf products to a period of months where the request is for a bespoke item.

In relation to your request, regarding the average costings and funding for replacements, our existing data collection and information management systems nationally are such that we are not in a position to provide you with the information requested. Similarly, we are unable to provide the information requested on the number of individuals who have received a replacement wheelchair over the last five years.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operations