

31st January, 2023

Ms. Holly Cairns, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 2293/23**

**"To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for aids and appliances for those under 18 years of age in CHO4; the length of time that they have been waiting; and if he will make a statement on the matter."**

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

The HSE Resource Allocation Group (RAG) usually meets monthly and all Medical and Surgical Aid and Appliance prescriptions (new and waitlisted) presented to the group continue to be reviewed. Funding, which is finite, is allocated to purchase items that are identified as highest priority taking all the circumstances of each individual concerned into account. The HSE are only in a position to purchase equipment within available resources and clinical demands on the budget remain high.

There is no average waiting times available as RAG is both adult and children services and are prioritised based on need, risk and available funding. I can advise that the longest child waiting in Cork is 13 weeks and in Kerry, it is 8 weeks.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**