



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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](https://twitter.com/hselive)

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

3rd February, 2023

**Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 3794/23 – To ask the Minister for Health the reason different rates of funding are being paid in respect of wigs and hair pieces to medical card holders residing in different areas in the country; if a breakdown of funding based on each local authority could be provided; if this will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Éamon Ó Cuív

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív ,

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

The budget and management of the Community Funded Schemes is a function that rests with Community Healthcare Organizations and not at national level. Their policies and procedures have developed locally and been influenced by a number of factors including historical practices and local budget allocations. This has given rise to the different rates and practices that are observed in different local health areas.

The service improvement programme being undertaken by National Primarycare has the aim of developing national evidence based standards, improved procedures, and greater quality in the services available to our service users. It also aims to eliminate the existing inequities between different areas of the country.

The HSE does not fund these items based on local authority areas, nor is the provided CHO funding broken out specifically to wigs and hairpieces. As such, we are not in a position to provide the funding data requested.

The development of these new procedures and guidelines for the provision of Post-Mastectomy Products and Wigs/Hairpieces are at an advanced stage of development and the expectation is that they will be completed by June 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations