



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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25th July 2023

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

PQ 33798/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline how each individual CHO funds interpreting services in general practices; if he plans to improve access to interpreters in general practice by establishing a central service for use across all CHOs; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Neasa Hourigan

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 33798/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Health Service can provide an Interpreter for those who can't communicate in English (where appropriate), there is no centrally held budget for this, the health service who arranges the interpretation pays for it, e.g. each hospital or health clinic pays for their own Interpreter.

The HSE developed resources for those planning to use the services of an interpreter which can be found at the links below:

[On Speaking Terms: Good Practice Guidelines for Staff in the Provision of Interpreting Services](#) and [Guideline for Communication in Cross-Cultural General Practice Consultations](#)

The HSE is currently examining the implementation requirements for the use of the Office of Government Procurement framework for the provision of Interpretation services (excluding Irish Language services).

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations