



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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20th September 2023

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

PQ 38251/23 – To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the procedure for applying to the HSE for an accessory for a HSE allocated wheelchair; and the procedure for replacing a wheelchair accessory allocated by the HSE which has been lost or damaged

- 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 38251/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The maintenance, repair, and replacement of wheelchairs and accessories, is a function of the different CHO's and they have a variety of arrangements and procedures in place for the provision of these services. Procedures can vary for several reasons including, the particular accessory or item being requested, whether the particular item is within or outside a warranty period, the level of repair required, amongst others.

As such, there is no single procedure for the provision, repair, and replacement of wheelchair accessories. However, in general the provision of a wheelchair or other mobility assistive product to an individual eligible service user commences with identification of a recognised need by an individual, family member, or a member of a health, social service or education profession. This is followed by a referral to an appropriate clinician (commonly an Occupational Therapist) for a detailed assessment and determination of the most appropriate type of wheelchair and/or other mobility equipment required to meet that individual's needs. The assessment process itself is individual-based and depending on the particular case complexity.

Certain types of wheelchairs (in particular lightweight and self-propelled wheelchairs) are maintained as stock items and are available for immediate issue from stores upon receipt of the clinical request. Stock is also available from the store of repurposed/recycled wheelchairs.

A service user who has particular issues with a piece of equipment should contact their local primary care centre/office who will be in a position to provide them with guidance and detail on the local procedures in place for the repair, and replacement of the piece of equipment in question.

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