



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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

**PQ 40108/23 - To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the funding that has been allocated to each CHO area for the supply of assistive technology in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023, in tabular form; if the HSE in each CHO area carries out its own assessments of those applying for assistive technology or if applicants are referred to other organisations for these assessments.**

-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 40108/23) which you submitted to the Minister Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

Assistive Technology support is broadly provided through three sectors:

- Health: necessary aids and appliances are supplied via the HSE Community Funded Schemes
- Education: necessary supports are provided through the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) Technical Aid Grant.
- Employment/Social Protection: necessary supports are provided via the Workplace Equipment Adaptation Grant.

In relation to the technical aid grant, the HSE do not administer same. This is the responsibility of the Department of Education via the National Council for Special Education. This is administered through its network of Special Education Needs Officers (SENOs), who are responsible for processing applications. Further information on the grant is available at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/237c68-assistive-technology-grant/#>

In relation to Health, the budget and management of aids and appliances via Community Funded Schemes is devolved to the local Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs). There are a variety of aids and appliances provided through community funded schemes and these products play a key role in assisting and supporting service users to maintain every day functioning. Supply of aids and appliances usually involves a qualified health care professional assessing an individual's needs and making a clinical recommendation on the supports required to enhance their daily living.

The Aids and Appliances Service Improvement Group have published a national list of aids and appliances and prescribing criteria on the HSE website. This sets out clear prescribing criteria to assist prescribers in evidence based decision making. This is available from the following webpage:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/primarycare/community-funded-schemes/aids-and-appliances/>

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care



National Community Operations