



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy O'Rourke  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 12485/24 – To ask the Minister for Health to detail the policy regarding the reuse and recycling of wheelchairs and crutches across all sectors of the health system; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Darren O'Rourke**

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Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 12485/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In respect of wheelchairs, and other mobility equipment that are supplied to service users it is the policy and practice of the HSE that once the individuals need for the particular piece of equipment ends, that every effort is made to ensure that all equipment is returned either by service users to their local health service, or arrangements are made to have the equipment collected. Returned equipment is then safety checked, cleaned and refurbished for use by other service users. Each item is reviewed and safety checked and those that no longer meet the requirements, or prove uneconomic to refurbish, are set aside. These end of life items are where possible are sent for recycling of their parts and materials.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

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**Sean McArt**

General Manager Primary Care,  
National Community Operations