



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta, An Chéad
Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15, Áras Phlásóg na Rós,
Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile, Páirc
Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an
Treoigh, Luimneach

Office of the Assistant National
Director, National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business
Complex, National Technology Park,
Castletroy, Limerick.

15th June 2025

Deputy David Cullinane,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: david.cullinane@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 35600/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will assess the current allocation of funds for aids and appliances for vision impairment, if she is aware of the inequity of the current arrangement whereby certain parts of the country are allocated no funding or extremely limited funding for said aids; if she will consider introducing a system where access to said aids is consistent regardless of geographic location; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

Low Vision aids and appliances are delivered nationally for the HSE through Vision Ireland.

Vision Ireland, (formerly The National Council for the Blind), is a not for profit charitable organisation which provides support and services nationwide to people experiencing sight loss. Vision Ireland's mission is to enable people who are blind and vision impaired to overcome the barriers that impede their independence and participation in society.

The organisation offers community based services to help people to adapt to sight loss and maintain their independence. These services include emotional support to the individual experiencing loss of vision and to their families, advice and information on all aspects of vision loss as well as practical support and solutions to the challenges encountered by people with vision loss. Services are offered to people of all ages, from birth through to older age.

Visually impaired people who meet the criteria have access to Aids and Appliances that will improve their quality of life. Those registered blind are supported by Vision Ireland which engages with the person to provide/recommend the necessary services, aids and appliances.

HSE Disability Services fund Vision Ireland, under Section 39 of the Health Act to provide a range of centre, domiciliary and community based services to people who are blind or vision impaired. This funding includes the provision of low vision aids and appliances.

This funding is governed by a number of Service Arrangements in all Regional Healthcare Areas, which identify service delivery provided by the agency in return for the money being provided to them. The Service Arrangements are reviewed on an annual basis.



Vision Ireland received funding of €8,260,342* in 2024 from the HSE.

.

*Please note:-The funding Information contained is from the SPG system is as at the date indicated, and represents the funding arrangement allocations entered by the operational system. SPG is not a finance or payment system and figures will fluctuate on a continuum as updates on governance arrangement are uploaded.

Yours Sincerely,

Tom McGuirk,
General Manager, Disability Services, Access & Integration