



Head of Service Primary Care

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Mr Paul Donnelly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
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Email: paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie

PQ 33972/25 – *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons on the waiting list for electric-powered wheelchairs from the HSE within CHO9; and the average waiting time for same.”* – **Paul Donnelly TD**

Dear Deputy Donnelly

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Integrated Health Areas Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West Primary care Occupational Therapy (OT) service provides assistance to adults and children to enable them to re-engage with the activities that they need or want to do in their everyday life. The goal of Occupational Therapy is to enable participation in everyday life activities at home, in school and the community.

For those requiring mobility aids, the referral is clinically assessed and prioritised based on the information provided. Referrals are prioritised as follows:

- Priority 1 referrals are identified as Immediate Priority and include clients who require end of life care/palliative care, essential support for a hospital discharge or where a significantly high-pressure care or manual handling risk to client or carers has been identified.
- Priority 2 referrals are identified as High Risk and include clients over the age of 90, clients with complex functional problems, have ongoing falls or are high risk of falls.
- All other referrals are classified as Priority 3.

The waiting time for power mobility assessment fluctuates depending on prioritisation placement, staffing resources and overall demand for OT services. At this time IHA Dublin North County and IHA Dublin North City and West has significant waiting lists for an assessment.

It is not possible to give an accurate estimate of the number of service users on our waiting list for power mobility assessment at this time as this information is not collated as it is possible this need is not identified until a client is seen by an OT.

However, I am happy to advise that there is currently no waiting time for approval of mobility aids as all prescriptions/orders for power mobility devices received have been approved. Waiting times for provision of mobility aids is dependant on whether the appliance is custom made or in stock with the individual supply companies. Service users can contact their occupational therapist directly for delivery information on their specific item.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde
Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and
Dublin North City & West
