



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

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2nd July 2025

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

PQ 26806/25 To ask the Minister for Health whether seasonality is considered when providing orthopaedic shoes, ensuring individuals have appropriate footwear for different weather conditions; and the provisions that exist for individuals with disabilities requiring orthopaedic shoes, including whether European disability status is factored into eligibility criteria.

- Erin McGreehan

Dear Deputy McGreehan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 26806/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Several factors are considered by an Orthotist when assessing, designing and prescribing orthopaedic footwear. Activity level, environment, and functional requirements are balanced with material choices, risk factors affecting the service user and supplier fabrication options.

European Disability Status (EDS) is not currently used as a standalone eligibility criterion. Instead, access to orthopaedic footwear is based on individual clinical assessment, medical need, and eligibility.

Medical card holders are entitled for the cost of orthopaedic shoes prescribed by the HSE to be provided free of charge.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration