



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,
Cúram Priomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,
Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
D08 W2A8.

Office of the Assistant National Director, www.hse.ie
Primary Care Access and Integration @hselive

Rm 243, Dr Steevens Hospital,
Steevens Lane, Dublin 8. D08 W2A8.

T: 01 6352209/2682
E: Primarycare.AI@hse.ie

2nd July 2025

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

PQ 26807/25 To ask the Minister for Health the latest figures on the number of individuals receiving orthopaedic shoe support each year; the average cost per pair; and whether funding or additional support is available for individuals experiencing pain due to delays in receiving new orthopaedic shoes.

- 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 26807/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There is currently no national database to provide figures on the number of individuals receiving orthopaedic shoe support each year. Orthotics Services cover a range of devices, not solely orthopaedic footwear and there is a range of service delivery models.

The average cost per pair of orthopaedic shoes, when provided directly by the HSE following assessment, is as follows:

- **Semi-bespoke (modular):** €300 to €500 per pair
- **Fully bespoke (made-to-measure):** €800 to €1,200 per pair

Where services are outsourced to private providers which deliver the service on behalf of the HSE they include assessment, measurement, and fitting therefore costs are typically 50–75% higher to reflect professional and operational overheads.

All referrals to Orthotic Services are triaged and prioritised. For referrals specifically relating to orthopaedic footwear, factors such as medical history, risk of ulceration, falls risk, current footwear, service history, and any associated pain while walking are taken into consideration. If an individual's condition has changed since the original referral, they should inform their referring clinician, who can resubmit a referral with updated clinical information and provide advice on support available while awaiting an appointment.

For individuals with full eligibility, the cost of orthopaedic footwear is fully met by the HSE. For those without full eligibility who may be experiencing financial hardship, assistance may be available through the Community Welfare Officer within the Department of Social Protection. Where financial hardship exists it is recommended that individuals contact their local Community Welfare Officer, who can provide guidance on accessing any available supports.



I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt

General Manager

Primary Care Access & Integration