



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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9th September 2025

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

PQ 46788/25: To ask the Minister for Health the reason(s) a type of hearing aid will no longer be issued by the HSE (details supplied); if she is satisfied that these hearing aids are of the same standard and quality as those previously issued by the HSE; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Additional Information: HSE audiology services used to issue “Phonak” branded hearing aids and now issue “Stretta” hearing aids. It is claimed that the latter is much more basic.

- Padraig Rice

Dear Deputy Rice,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 46788/25) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Hearing aids provided through HSE Community Audiology services are periodically procured under EU competition rules. This process ensures that patients receive high-quality, multi-microphone, multi-programmable digital hearing aids, rather than basic amplifiers, and that public funding is used effectively.

During the formal procurement process, all hearing aid devices that are submitted to the HSE procurement clinical / technical group for consideration, are evaluated against comprehensive specifications, ensuring that the devices selected and placed on the active HSE contract meet the highest standards of hearing aid specifications, which is required to meet the functional hearing requirements of our patients.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration