



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 46789/25: To ask the Minister for Health the reason a type of hearing aid will continue to be issued to children but not adults (details supplied); if in future patients will have to change hearing aids when they move from children to adult audiology services; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Additional Information: “Phonak” branded hearing aids, which were previously issued to adults, will now only be available to children. The HSE is now issuing “Stretta” hearing aids to adults.

- 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 46789/25) 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.

The procurement process breaks down clinical requirements for the hearing aids into a range of “lots” e.g. adult mild loss, adult severe – profound, paediatric mild etc. Manufacturers can apply for any or all the HSE procurement lots.

In relation to Phonak hearing aids they have not been available via the adults framework for some considerable time. While the HSE will look to tender again in the future at this point in time there has been no change to the hearing aids available.

I trust this is of assistance.

Seán McArt
General Manager
Primary Care Access & Integration