



21st December 2021

Deputy Patricia Ryan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 61691/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which medical equipment loaned to patients and service users is reused or recycled when it is no longer required by said persons; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Patricia Ryan

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 61691/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In response to your query, recycling and reusing equipment is an integral part of the Community Funded Schemes (CFS), which provides vital aids and appliances to service users in the community. Recycled equipment would include the full range of appliances issued and include community profiling beds, mattresses both foam and dynamic air, cushions, nursing chairs, riser recliners, hoists, full range of bathing and toileting appliances, wheelchairs both manual and powered, paediatric appliances including physiotherapy and specialised seating and buggies, mobility appliances including rollators and walking frames, amongst other items.

All appliances are cleaned in accordance with HSE infections control guidelines, receive a full functions check & are repaired or serviced in line with manufacturers recommendations. This service is provided through HSE recycling centres or by external service providers working to HSE specification. In line with manufactured guidelines, certain items are not suitable for reuse, and their component parts are sent for recycling. Otherwise, every effort is made to ensure that where possible appliances are reused.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations