



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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

PQ 55566/23 – “To ask the Minister for Health if wheelchairs, rollators and other such mobility equipment supplied by the HSE is recycled; and if so, how many such units are put back into use”

- 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 55566/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

In respect of wheelchairs, rollators, and other mobility equipment that are supplied to service users it is the policy and practice of the HSE that once the individuals need for the particular piece of equipment ends, that every effort is made to ensure that all equipment is returned either by service users to their local health service, or arrangements are made to have the equipment collected. Returned equipment is then safety checked, cleaned and refurbished for use by other service users. Each item is reviewed and safety checked and those that no longer meet the requirements, or prove uneconomic to refurbish, are set aside. These end of life items are where possible, sent for recycling of their parts and materials.

Given the thousands of different types of aids and appliances that the HSE provides it is not possible to provide a precise percentage of equipment that is reutilised. It varies dependent on the product and its component parts, for example, the reutilisation rate for items such as shower aids would be at the lower end, while items such as beds, hoists and standard wheelchairs would be at the higher end. It is also the case that bespoke pieces of equipment tend to have a lower reutilisation rate compared to standard items. The mobility items that you refer to would be at the higher end of this reuse percentage (90% plus).

The practice adopted by the CHO's is that where possible every effort is made to ensure that all equipment is refurbished and reutilised. Equipment that cannot be reused is sent for recycling.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Sean McArt
General Manager Primary Care,
National Community Operations