

24th November, 2023 (date prepared)
14th February, 2024 (date issued)

Ms. Holly Cairns, TD.,
Dáil Eireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 52566/23

“To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth whether his Department can provide a pathway for organisations such as (details supplied) to access funding for assistive technology and augmentative and alternative communication, as currently all applications for funding need to be submitted by the public team (details supplied).”

Detail Supplied: The Down Syndrome Centre Cork is having difficulties getting access to the funding for these technologies. Many children who are attending the centre receive recommendations for technologies from the centre's therapist. However many do not have a speech and language therapist or an occupational therapists as part of their public team and so cannot request that the application for funding be submitted.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

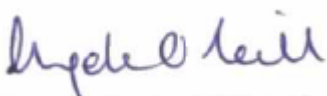
The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for response.

Children's Disability Services in Cork are provided by Children's Disability Network Teams (CDNTs). These teams provide interdisciplinary supports for children with complex disability needs. Children with less complex disability needs access services via primary care. Funding for aids and appliances including assistive technology and augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) devices is requested and approved through the HSE's Resource Allocation Group. Requests for funding must be submitted by relevant HSE clinical staff or by CDNT staff.

In circumstances where a family has a recommendation for equipment from a service such as The Down Syndrome Centre Cork, they should engage with their assigned CDNT or primary care service. Where appropriate, that service can submit the request to the Resource Allocation Group.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ms. Angela O'Neill,
Head of Disability Services,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare