



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,  
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
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22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

Deputy O'Sullivan,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 16079/24 - To ask the Minister for Health if, following the recent publicity surrounding the provision of bras, prosthetics, and swimwear for post-mastectomy clients, he will clarify what are the entitlements; to provide a list of the companies that provide these products nationally and which of the entitlements they supply (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig O'Sullivan *Details supplied: it has become apparent that there is a discrepancy throughout the country as to what companies supply under this scheme as many have claimed they did not know about their swimwear entitlement and when they questioned their supplier, they don't supply them under the government scheme only for private purchase. If accurate it means many women have not received their full entitlement***

**-Padraig O'Sullivan**

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Dear Deputy O'Sullivan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 16079/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The budget and management of the provision of bras and prosthesis post cancer treatment is a function that rests with Community Healthcare Organisations. Their policies and procedures have developed locally and been influenced by a number of factors including historical practices and local budget allocations. The general position in relation to bras and prosthesis post cancer treatment is that 2 bras per year and 1 prosthesis every two years is funded for those with medical card eligibility. As stated, this is not uniform and based on historical practices, therefore levels of provision can differ across the country.

The service improvement programme for Community Funded Schemes is reviewing the process, with existing provisions remaining the same at this time. The aim of the service improvement programme is to develop national evidence based standards, improved procedures and equity in the services available to our service users.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager Primary Care  
National Community Operation