

20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Mr Thomas Gould, TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ ref 10516/24**

**"To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth if he is aware that Cope Foundation buses do not have wheelchair passes."**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

The allocation of EU parking cards is administered by the Disabled Drivers Association of Ireland (DDAI). The Department of Transport has responsibility for the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers Regulations (1994) which relate to the allocation of EU parking cards.

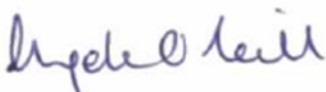
The DDAI have informed Cope Foundation that EU parking cards are allocated to individuals who meet the criteria as set out in the relevant regulations. Each person must be assessed by a medical practitioner as having a 'permanent condition or disability that severely restricts their ability to walk' (Department of Transport 'Review of the Disabled Parking Scheme 2010') and the Primary Medical Certificate must be submitted by the applicant.

Cope Foundation have submitted detail (including photographs) of the adapted vehicles used by individuals in receipt of services by Cope Foundation to the DDAI. However, as the regulations require the EU parking card to be allocated to an individual the DDAI have advised Cope Foundation that they cannot apply for EU parking cards for the vehicles.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are supportive of any measures which can be taken to address this issue to ensure that the HSE and its funded service providers, such as Cope Foundation, can apply for EU parking cards for relevant vehicles. This would be a positive measure to address some of the accessibility issues experienced by disabled people in Ireland.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely



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