

WHEELCHAIR MANAGEMENT SCHEME AND CRITERIA FOR LENDING OF WHEELCHAIRS TO PERSONS WITH MOTOR DISABILITY

I. AIM

Lending second hand wheelchairs to beneficiaries by the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (DSIPD) and which come: a) from returns under the Financial Assistance Scheme for purchasing a wheelchair, b) from a donation, c) from the purchase of a limited number of wheelchairs by the DSIPD for lending purposes.

II. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR LENDING OF WHEELCHAIRS

1. Beneficiaries

Any person with motor disability of the lower limbs, who cannot walk or who can walk very short distances on an even ground either with or without the use of ancillary means or instruments.

2. Submission of Applications

Applications shall be submitted by physiotherapists by completing the standard form.

Applications should be accompanied by a medical certificate of the disability.

The physiotherapist, following evaluation of the need for a wheelchair, shall recommend to the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, on the appropriate part of the application, the suitable type of wheelchair.

Permanent users of wheelchairs, receiving the severe motor disability allowance are exempted from the above procedure.

3. Approval of applications

The decision to lend a wheelchair shall be taken by the Director of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities or another authorised Officer of the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

Upon lending of the wheelchair, the beneficiary or his representative shall be obliged to sign a statement of commitment that he shall return the wheelchair in case it is not used anymore by the beneficiary and within one year from the date of lending.

The person who has received a wheelchair by lending shall be obliged to handle it with care, keep it in an appropriate area and to maintain and repair it on time.

III. MAINTENANCE, REPAIRING AND KEEPING OF WHEELCHAIRS

All wheelchairs given through the above procedure are property of the State. When they are returned they shall be kept at the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Persons with Disabilities or anywhere else the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities may think fit.

The Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities shall be responsible to maintain, repair or destroy any wheelchair upon recommendation of the physiotherapist of the Paraplegia Centre or of any other expert.

For the maintenance, repairing and collection/delivery of wheelchairs, the Department for Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities may purchase services from the private sector.