



**Thomas Pringle TD**  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

18<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**PQ 33297/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of applicants for the primary medical certificate programme in 2020 to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Thomas Pringle”**

Dear Deputy Pringle,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 33297/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Disabled Drivers and Passenger Scheme is operated by the Department of Finance. HSE Community Medical Doctors (CMDs) carry out independent medical assessment of applicants for this scheme. The appeals process is an independent process and is operated by the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal. There was a Supreme Court judgment on 18 June 2020 in relation to this scheme. Following communication from the Department of Finance, the Minister for Health has instructed that there should be no medical assessments of applicants for Primary Medical Certificates until further notice, pending clarification of the legal position through the Department of Finance.

In the period from January to October 2020 a total of 2,350 applications for primary medical certificates were received.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Siobhán Mc Ardle in blue ink.

**Siobhán Mc Ardle**

Head of Operations: Primary Care  
Community Operations