



Cúram Sláinte  
Phobail, Iarthar  
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,  
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

Community  
Healthcare West  
serving Galway, Mayo  
and Roscommon

Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim

Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathr N.Muire,  
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58.  
T: 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

Head of Primary Care Services

Community Healthcare West, St. Mary's Headquarters,  
Castlebar, Co. Mayo, F23 HP58.  
Tel: 094 9049064 / 094 9049069

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Éamon Ó'Cuív TD  
Constituency Office  
Kirwin House  
Flood Street  
Galway

**PQ 52378/22 To ask the Minister for Health the reason the rates of refund allowed for specialised spectacles for children in CHO 2 has been reduced, as this cutback is having a big impact on parents of low income whose children require expensive specialised spectacles; the amount of the savings that these cutbacks will accrue and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ó'Cuív,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

A body of work has taken place to review the Discretionary Payments including the review of guidelines from other jurisdictions along with an audit of dispensing and clinical optometrists in the CHO network. We have established new criteria and remuneration rates, standardised forms and application processes to ensure transparency, consistency and fairness across the region which commenced February 1st, 2024. The process is application based and quantifiable retrospectively.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Mary Warde**  
Head of Primary Care  
Community Healthcare West