



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.
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9th April 2024

Deputy Fleming,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 4134/24 – To ask the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth the number of blind persons in receipt of the blind welfare allowance which is a means tested payment; the number of persons in a range of payments of those in receipt of less than €50, between €50 to €100, between €100 to €150; between €150 to €200 and over; if the means test for this payment will be re-examined for persons who are in this difficult situation in order that more persons can qualify for a larger payment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Sean Fleming

Dear Deputy Fleming,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 4134/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Children; Equality; Disability; Integration and Youth for response.

Blind Welfare Allowance (BWA) is part of special services for blind persons under the Blind Persons Act, 1920. It is a means-tested payment from the HSE to people, aged 18 and over, who are blind or visually impaired.

We do not routinely collate the number of persons in the range of payments as outlined in your question in this office however, I have included the latest data in the format available to us on the table below which is the most up-to-date information we have at this time:

CHO	No. of recipients of Blind Welfare Allowance end December 2023	Blind Welfare Allowance Cost Per CHO 2023	Average Blind Welfare Allowance per annum per recipient in 2023
CHO1	363	€990,728	€2,729
CHO2	427	€1,542,246	€3,612
CHO3	243	€896,597	€3,690
CHO4	443	€1,722,836	€3,889
CHO5	420	€1,491,436	€3,551
CHO6	142	€504,978	€3,556
CHO7	490	€1,618,080	€3,302
CHO8	528	€2,066,490	€3,914
CHO9	455	€1,463,043	€3,215



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operation