



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
Bealach amach 5, M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3
Fón: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,
Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

Marc Ó Cathasaigh, T.D.

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

17th May 2024

PQ: 20506/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who lost access to a medical card due to pension increases in the last Budget; his Department's plans to pre-emptively address the issue in Budget 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Marc Ó Cathasaigh

Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20506/24), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medical Card applications are assessed in line with the National Assessment Guidelines. If a person's sole income is that of a Social Welfare payment (e.g. State Pension, Jobseekers Allowance etc), they will qualify for a Medical Card. Where applicants have additional income their applications for eligibility are processed by establishing, in the first instance, if the applicant (and dependants, if applicable) is within the relevant financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card or GP Visit Card eligibility. Relevant documentation to support a comprehensive mean assessment is required and, as such, it may be necessary for the applicants to submit additional evidence to validate financial details outlined in the application.

As part of the application process for Medical Card eligibility, applicants are invited to provide comprehensive information in relation to the costs associated with any illness and the care needs of the applicant and/or any dependants. In the event that an applicant's means are above the financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card eligibility, other factors outlined in the application in relation to the burden of illness are taken into consideration and eligibility may be granted where it is deemed appropriate to exercise discretion because of the undue burden on the applicant and /or any dependants.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie