



Stephen Donnelly, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th January, 2020

PQ: 52248/19

To ask the Minister for Health the most recent projection on the number of medical cards to be provided in 2019; and the likely full year costs or savings in 2019 in the case of a variation from the projection - Stephen Donnelly.

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 52248/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National service Plan (NSP) 2019 projection in respect eligibility under the Medical Card (MC) scheme and the GP Visit Card (GPVC) scheme is as outlined in the table hereunder:

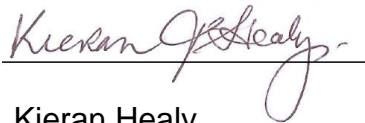
NSP 2019	Expected Activity	Actual 2019	Variance	%
MC	1,541,667	1,544,374	2,707	+0.2%
GPVC	528,079	524,494	-3,585	- 0.7%
Combined	2,069,746	2,068,868	-878	-0.04%

Changes in medical cards costs are influenced by a range of factors including amongst others: changes in medical card numbers; changes in the age distribution of medical card holders; changes in capitations rates; changes in medical practise resulting in changes in the number and types of items reimbursed; changes to the list of reimbursable items; and changes in the costs of items listed for reimbursement.

Validated full year costs and any variance from the 2019 budget allocation will not be available until all claims from Primary Care contractors and suppliers are processed and the end-of-year accounts are prepared.

However on the basis of current estimates the costs of medical cards are grossly on budget in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kieran Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service