



Mr John Brassil, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

31<sup>st</sup> July, 2019

PQ: 29790/19

**To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of the 10% increase across general practitioner visit card weekly income thresholds which took effect from April 2019; and the number of additional persons now covered by free general practitioner access as a result of the change -John Brassil**

Dear Deputy Brassil,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 29790/19), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

For 2020 budgetary purposes, an estimate of the full year cost, arising from the grant of eligibility to persons whose means assessment is within the revised GP Visit Card threshold, (effective from 1 April 2019), will be informed by the number of additional persons, in the period April to September 2019, that meet the criteria for GP Visit Card eligibility and would not otherwise be granted eligibility based on the lower financial threshold.

Between 1 April 2019 and 30 June 2019 a total of 863 additional persons were granted GP Visit Card eligibility, based on the revised GP Visit Card financial threshold.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Healy  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service