



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

Office of the Head of Operations & Service Improvement
Services for Older People

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21st May 2019

Deputy Michael McGrath,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this office for response:

PQ: 18808/19

To ask the Minister for Health the amount owed to the HSE under the Nursing Home Support Scheme as a result of the deferral by applicants by way of a charge on the family home of their liability in respect of that property under the scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

The Nursing Homes Support Scheme is a scheme of financial support for people who need long term nursing home care.

Under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme people make a contribution towards the cost of their care and the State pays the balance.

Ancillary State Support (Nursing Home Loan) is an optional feature of the scheme for people who own property/land based assets in the State. It is a loan advanced by the HSE to help people meet the portion of their contribution to the cost of care that is based on property/land based assets situated in the State.

Payment of Ancillary State Support by the HSE results in the creation of a Charge in favour of the HSE against the interest of the person and his/her partner in the asset.

The Nursing Home Loan subsequently becomes repayable following the occurrence of any of the following relevant events:

- after the death of the person,
- if the person sells or transfers the property,
- if the person or his/her partner are deemed to be bankrupt, or
- if the HSE determines that it has been given false/misleading information relating to an application for the loan.

Under Section 26 of the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009, the collection and recovery of the repayable amount of the nursing home loan (Ancillary State Support) is a function of the Revenue Commissioners and the Commissioners have the authority to act as they deem necessary for the collecting, receiving and accounting of the repayable amount.

On the occurrence of a relevant event, the nursing home loan must be repaid to the Revenue Commissioners within the repayment timeframes *e.g. on the death of a person – repayment must be made within 12 months of date of death, on sale/transfer of property – repayment must be made within 6 months of date of sale/transfer*. The Revenue Commissioners may take all steps which they consider appropriate to recover the repayable amount of the loan. Such monies received by the Revenue Commissioners must be paid into the Exchequer's Central Fund. Once the loan is repaid, the charging order is then removed from the asset.

The estimated value of funds owed is €144,657m. Please note that this amount will be collected by the Revenue Commissioners following a relevant event and transferred to the Central Fund.

Total ASS paid by HSE in respect of all relevant assets to 31/12/2018	€239,099
Total funds collected by Revenue on all relevant assets to 31/12/2018	€86,829
Total Value of outstanding ASS Paid	€152,270
Value of deferred income on Principal Private Residence	€144,657

This calculation is based on Ancillary State Support figures included in the HSE 2018 Annual Financial Statement. 95% of Ancillary State Support applications are made in respect of the clients' Principal Private Residence and this percentage is used as the basis of this estimate.

I trust this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,



Sandra Tuohy
Assistant National Director, Head of Operations & Service Improvement
Services for Older People