



26<sup>th</sup> November 2019

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

**PQ 46059/19 - To ask the Minister for Health the reason there is no regional services for those attending primary medical certificate assessment appointments meaning all applicants to the scheme must travel to Dublin to attend the assessments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Stephen Donnelly**

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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

Applications for the Primary Medical Certificate are made to the Community Medical Department at the local Primary Care Office in each area throughout the country. An appointment for the applicant is made by the local office and the patient is medically assessed. In the event that the applicant fulfils the medical criteria of eligibility, they are granted a Primary Medical Certificate which is issued for the purposes of section 92 of the Finance Act, 1989 and the Disabled Drivers and Disabled Passengers (Tax Concessions) Regulations, (S.I No. 353 of 1994, as amended by S.I No. 634 of 2015 and S.I No. 55 of 2018).

The Medical Criteria are;

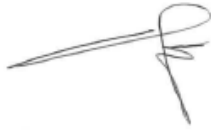
- Persons who are wholly or almost wholly without the use of both legs;
- Persons wholly without the use of one of their legs and almost wholly without the use of the other leg such that they are severely restricted as to movement of their lower limbs;
- Persons without both hands or without both arms;
- Persons without one or both legs;
- Persons wholly or almost wholly without the use of both hands or arms and wholly or almost wholly without the use of one leg;
- Persons having the medical condition of dwarfism and who have serious difficulties of movement of the lower limbs.

In the event that the applicant does not fulfil the medical criteria of eligibility a refusal letter is issued with the details of the Appeals process and the address to which the Appeal must be forwarded.

The appeals are all carried out by Dr Cara McDonagh at the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire The Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal (DDMBA) is an independent body set up by the Department of Finance in 1990 to review individuals whose application for the Primary Medical Certificate is unsuccessful at local HSE level.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



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Siobhán McArdle,  
Head of Operations Primary Care,  
Community Operations