



Brid Smith TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd December 2020

PQ 42325/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason the reimbursements to applicants under the community ophthalmic services scheme have now been capped; the average figure now reimbursed across the scheme; and if he will make arrangements to ensure vulnerable low income applicants and their children can access additional supports to recover the costs if needed. -Brid Smith”

Dear Deputy Smith,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 42325/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The reimbursement of the cost of eye tests and glasses for all children is administered by the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service. There are standard reimbursement rates and we are not aware of any recent change to these rates.

The HSE Community Health Organisations (CHOs) approve spending on certain items, based on the needs of the child, including items such as specialist lenses or frames. There is no national practice in this area and the amounts to be reimbursed can vary between CHO areas.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford'.

TJ Dunford

Interim Head of Primary Care Operations/AND.
Community Operations.