



Pauline Tully TD
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd December 2020

PQ 42412/20

“To ask the Minister for Health if he will request the HSE to reverse its decision to discontinue full reimbursements for the cost of eye tests and glasses for children with Down syndrome; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that over 50% of children with Down syndrome will require glasses during their lives; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pauline Tully”

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 42412/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The reimbursement of the cost of eye tests and glasses for all children, including children with Down syndrome, 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.