



Primary Care Reimbursement Service
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James Browne, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

22nd May, 2020

PQ: 4109/20

To ask the Minister for Health the way in which the medical card client registration unit treats medical card applications when queued for the attention of the deciding officer; if his attention has been drawn to the impact of delays on applicants whose applications lose their place in the queue when referred to the medical officer; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -James Browne

Dear Deputy Browne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 4109/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Applications for eligibility are processed by establishing, in the first instance, if the applicant (and dependants, if applicable) is within the relevant financial threshold for the grant of Medical Card or GP Visit Card eligibility.

If an application is assessed over the qualifying financial thresholds for both a Medical Card and GP visit card, and the application also includes medical or social circumstances that do not form part of the means assessment, the application will then be considered on discretionary grounds for a grant of eligibility under the 'undue hardship'/undue burden' provisions of the scheme.

The assessment to be made in this instance is whether it is considered that 'undue hardship' will occur or an 'undue burden' be placed on the applicant(s) in providing for his/her medical needs or his/her family dependants' medical needs in the absence of eligibility.

No undue delays arise in the processing of applications that have been assessed by a Medical Officer and await the approval of a Deciding Officer. There are currently no delays within the National Medical Card Unit

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Healy
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service