



Office of the Head of Operations Primary Care, Community Operations  
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Oifig Ceann na n-Oibríochtaí, Cúraim Phríomhúil, Oibríochtaí Pobail  
Ospidéal Dr. Steevens' Baile Atha Cliath 8, DO8 W2A8  
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2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Deputy Róisín Shortall,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 38674/20 - To ask the Minister for Health the policy position on the optical benefit refund scheme; the reason the policy was amended given the hardship the change has created for families; and if he will consider reversing the policy.**

- Róisín Shortall

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Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

The Treatment Benefit Scheme is run by the Department of Social Protection (DSP) and provides dental, optical and aural services to qualified people.

The Treatment Benefit Scheme is available to insured workers, the self-employed and retired people who have the required number of PRSI Contributions.

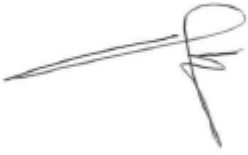
Under the Treatment Benefit Scheme, you may qualify for:

- Dental benefit
- Optical benefit
- Hearing aids

As this is a policy matter, the HSE is not in a position to comment further.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford', written on a light-colored background.

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