



**Richard O'Donoghue TD**  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

**PQ 28951/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients assessed for a primary medical certificate from March 2020 to date; if he has satisfied himself that any backlog issues have been addressed; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Richard O'Donoghue”**

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 28951/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Disabled Drivers and Passenger Scheme is operated by the Department of Finance. HSE Community Medical Doctors (CMDs) carry out independent medical assessment of applicants for this scheme. The appeals process is an independent process and is operated by the Disabled Drivers Medical Board of Appeal. There was a Supreme Court judgment on 18 June 2020 in relation to this scheme. Following communication from the Department of Finance, the Minister for Health has instructed that there should be no medical assessments of applicants for Primary Medical Certificates until further notice, pending clarification of the legal position through the Department of Finance. In the period from March 2020 to the end of September 2020 there were 682 people assessed for a primary medical certificate. At the end of September there are 1,314 applications for a primary medical certificate on hold as a result of the Supreme Court ruling of 18 June 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

**Siobhán Mc Ardle**

Head of Operations: Primary Care  
Community Operations