



Sean Haughey, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

2nd October, 2020

PQ: 25092/20

To ask the Minister for Health the reason it is necessary for the holders of medical cards with lifelong medical conditions such as Down syndrome to have to fill out forms regularly to renew their medical cards; if his attention has been drawn to the distress caused to the families of these medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Haughey

Dear Deputy Haughey,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 25092/20), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Medical Card eligibility is primarily based on an assessment of means and is not granted on the basis of any particular medical condition, of itself, (except in limited cases). As part of the application process for Medical Card eligibility, applicants are invited to provide comprehensive information in relation to the costs associated with any illness and the care needs of the applicant and/or any dependants. In circumstances where an applicant's means exceed the relevant financial threshold for the grant of eligibility, the HSE may, on further consideration of circumstances outlined in the application that indicates undue hardship of the undue burden on the applicant (and any dependants, if applicable) grant eligibility, on a discretionary basis. Those granted eligibility on a discretionary basis are not issued with a review notification currently.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service