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6th May 2021

Deputy Mairead Farrell,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 20775/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of primary medical certificate applications at hand to date; the number of applications waiting to be assessed; the number of applications that have been processed in the past four months by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 20775/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The latest available data is at March 2021 and this is available by CHO area. See attached Appendix 1 which shows the number of assessments for primary medical certificates completed between January and March 2021 as well as the numbers waiting to be assessed at March 2021.

There are challenges in some CHO areas in progressing assessments for primary medical certificates due to redeployment of Medical Officers particularly in regard to the COVID Vaccine Programme and management of outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities across the country. The HSE is currently revising its service recovery and restoration plans taking account of the COVID pressure challenges presenting. Assessments for primary medical certificates are considered in that context and every option is being considered to address the backlog for assessments for primary medical certificates.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maeve Raeside".

Maeve Raeside
General Manager Primary Care,
National Community Operations