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18th October 2021

**Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.**

PQ 48254/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the status of the processing of applications for primary medical certificates; if this has resumed since it was stalled due to Covid-19; if there is a substantial backlog of applications to be processed; the number of applications that are currently waiting to be processed; and the breakdown of pending applications in each CHO in tabular form.

- Violet-Anne Wynne

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 48254/21) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Department of Health has advised the HSE that assessments for those applying for Primary Medical Assessments could recommence from 1st January 2021 and this has proceeded in the context of restoring services in a COVID-19 Environment as set out below.

Building upon the experience from earlier waves of the pandemic, Community Services developed a prioritisation framework to support local decisions made on service prioritisation. This approach ensures that services are focused on identifying and supporting patients who have the greatest need and enabling staff to be deployed where necessary to support these patients. Where services are curtailed or reduced, this is in line with clinical approval, a shared national position and with an appropriate risk assessment and communication with providers, service users and families.

There has been significant progress in addressing the backlog for assessments for primary medical certificates. The latest available data is at June 2021 and in the period from January to June 2021 there were 1,272 assessments carried out. At the end of June 2021, there were 835 people waiting to be assessed for a primary medical certificate. See attached Appendix 1, which shows the numbers waiting to be assessed at June 2021 by CHO area.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations