



Seán Canney, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

11<sup>th</sup> May 2022

PQ: 20168/22

**To ask the Minister for Health his views on the fact that many farmers and self-employed people with disabilities are unable to access medical cards due to the means test which takes into account the value of land owned as opposed to income from such land in which there is none when such people are not able to work and are losing out on medical entitlements as a result; his further views that the additional costs relating to having a disability should be taken into account; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney**

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 20168/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Medical Card scheme is based, in the first instance on a financial assessment of the applicant's or applicants' weekly income and means. The scheme is administered under the National Medical Card/GP Visit Card National Assessment Guidelines. These guidelines are available on the HSE website [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

If, following the means assessment the client is over the threshold and therefore ineligible, the HSE has discretion when deciding to grant eligibility to persons whose income is in excess of the relevant guidelines. Medical information furnished by the applicant can be considered by the HSE Medical Officer in the context of the applicant's means and, if it would be unduly burdensome to the applicant to provide GP services for themselves and their dependents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service