



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
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22nd February 2022

Deputy Sean Canney
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: sean.canney@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Canney

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 6567/22

To ask the Minister for Health the cost to the State of the motorised transport grant scheme per annum since its inception; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Motorised Transport Grant was an administrative scheme established in 1968. It was administered by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and operated as a means-tested grant to assist persons with severe disabilities with the purchase or adaptation of a car, where that car was essential to retain employment.

The maximum grant, payable once to an individual in any three-year period was €5,020. Prior to the closure of the Scheme in 2013, approximately 300 people per annum qualified for a grant at an estimated cost of €1.3 million per annum.

The Government decided that new statutory provisions should be established to provide individual payments to people with severe disabilities who require additional income to address the costs of their mobility needs.

In this context, on 26th February 2013, it was decided to close the Mobility Allowance and the Motorised Transport Grant and to seek a solution or solutions to address those with priority needs in a manner compatible with the law and within available financial resources.

The effect of the Government's decision was that both schemes were closed to new entrants with immediate effect. Those whose applications had already been received for either scheme would be assessed and, if found to be qualified, would be paid.


In November 2013, the Government decided that the detailed preparatory work required for a new travel subsidy scheme and associated statutory provisions should be progressed by the Minister for



Health, in consultation with other relevant Ministers. The HSE understands that the Department of Health is working to progress the matter in line with the Government's decision.

Information regarding the cost to the State of the motorised transport grant scheme per annum since its inception is not collated by HSE National Finance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernard O'Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations