



Head of HR, CHO 1  
Donegal; Sligo / Leitrim; Cavan / Monaghan

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Deputy Thomas Pringle TD  
21 Bridge St,  
Cashelcummin,  
Killybegs,  
Co. Donegal,  
F94 FN83

**PQ 3570/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason that the Donegal Travellers primary healthcare project has been prevented from paying increments to its staff since 2008; if this is Departmental policy; if not, if the HSE has acted alone in this case; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**Response:**

The HSE had not received an increase in allocation from the Department for Health for Travellers Health for a number of years until 2021, when the HSE received additional funding for employment of a Nursing post for Traveller health (1 per CHO area).

I would note that the Donegal Traveller Project was included in the in top 250 S39s for pay restoration, and their allocation increased in 2021, as per the national recommendation and funding allocation.

Under the terms of HSE service level agreements in place with S39 organisations, the HSE can only provide funding for salaries in keeping with the public sector norms. I am advised there is no national agreement between the funded Traveller organisations on national public salary scales, resulting in a potential disparity in the salaries paid to Travellers Community Care staff versus directly HSE employed comparators at similar grades.

Yours sincerely

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***Patrick Murray***  
***Head of HR, CHO1***