



Pat Buckley, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

PQ: 11846/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical cards that have expired during the Covid restrictions; the number that have been reissued during the same period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pat Buckley**

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 11846/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Monthly figures for those eligible for Medical Cards are published by PCRS and are available on the Publications page of our website: (<https://www.sspcrs.ie/portal/annual-reporting>).

These figures give the position after reviews have been carried out on cards due to expire and include new cards issued. Where eligibility is retained, a new expiry date is included on the cards issued. Where a card expires and no response was received to a renewal letter, eligibility will be lost, but if a response is received and a new card issued within 6 months of its original expiry date, such cards are said to be reinstated.

The number of medical cards reinstated in 2021 was 26,138 and the number reinstated in 2020 from March to Dec was 14,006. It should be noted that reviews were suspended in 2020 for 6 months and cards due to expire at the end of March, April, May, June, July and Aug had their eligibility extended for a year.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service