



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

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

PQ: 11847/22

**To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that persons who were in possession of full medical cards during Covid-19 restrictions whose cards had expired during Covid restrictions were reissued with a general practitioner visit card only; the rationale for this; 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 11847/22), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE PCRS must ensure that all applications for services covered by the General Medical Services (GMS) schemes are properly processed under the eligibility rules governing these schemes.

Due to this requirement, it is necessary for PCRS to carry out renewal assessments, in order to ensure that people are still entitled to hold eligibility to their Medical Card/GP Visit Card. Medical Card eligibility is assessed under the Medical Card/GP Visit Card National Assessment Guidelines on the basis of the information supplied by the applicant.

Means testing remains the legal basis for assessment of eligibility. If an applicant's income is in excess for Medical Card eligibility they may qualify for a GP Visit Card based on their income.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle'.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service