



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Príomhúil

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,
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5th April 2022

Deputy Pauline Tully,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 13032/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons who have availed of the mobility allowance in each year since the scheme ended in 2013, in tabular form; the cost each year to the Exchequer, and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- Pauline Tully

Dear Deputy Tully,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 13032/22) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Mobility Allowance was a scheme introduced in 1979, at a time when there was limited availability of accessible public transport, and was operated by the Health Service Executive. It was a means tested monthly payment payable by the Health Service Executive, to people aged 16 and over and under age 66, who have a disability and are unable to walk or use public transport, and who would benefit from a change in surroundings.

The government decided to close these administrative schemes in 2013, on the foot of Ombudsman reports in 2011 and 2012 regarding the legal status of the scheme in the context of the Equal Status Acts. In 2013, the Government also decided to continue payment of the monthly Mobility Allowance on an interim basis, to those who were in receipt of the Mobility Allowance at the time of the scheme's closure. There were 4,700 individuals in receipt of the Mobility Allowance (€9 million per annum) when the scheme closed in 2013.

Please see the attached appendices below which illustrate the number of persons who have availed of the mobility allowance from 2013-2021, and the cost per annum to the Exchequer, by CHO area.

Appendix 1 – Number of Recipients of Mobility Allowance per Year.

Appendix 2 – Total Cost of Mobility Allowance per Year.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Seán McArt'.

Seán McArt
General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations