



Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

26<sup>th</sup> April 2023

PQ: 19035/23

**To ask the Minister for Health how many people received a medical card in each of the years 2020, 2021 and 2022; and the cost of this scheme to the State in each of these years; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Éamon Ó Cuív**

Dear Deputy Ó Cuív,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 19035/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Please find enclosed a spreadsheet outlining the number of new cards issued in 2020, 2021 and 2022 as per your above request. Please note the PCRS does not collate Medical Card data by the number of people, as there can be a number of children under 16 that are covered by their parent's cards.

Regarding the cost of this scheme to the state, please see the following link to our website: [PCRS - Reporting Menu \(sspcrs.ie\)](https://www.sspcrs.ie) .

Here you can access the PCRS Annual Reports in which GMS summary of Statistical Information over 5 years is contained, showing eligibility figures under the scheme and total payments to GP's and Pharmacists. The latest Annual Report is from 2021, with the 2022 Annual Report being due in July.

The figures regarding GP and Pharmacist payments are found on page 18 of the Annual Report 2021. The total cost to the state can be found on page 10. Please note these figures also take into account optical, dental and administrative costs.

There is a lot of relevant information on the above website regarding eligibility figures, costs, claims and expenditures that you may find useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service