



John Lahart, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

01<sup>st</sup> August 2023

PQ: 33675/23

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a breakdown of the cost of the average medical card, including the direct cost to the general practitioner; a breakdown of the indirect cost, to include the cost of drugs and other schemes which the medical card permits exemption; and if he will make a statement on the matter.-John Lahart**

Dear Deputy Lahart,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 33675/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The following table details the indicative costs of providing medical card eligibility to individuals within the various age cohorts. The individual eligibility cost detailed in the table below is based on the actual claims for the 12 month period to February 2023.

It should be noted that the card utilization rate of individuals with eligibility added / removed in 2022/3 may not be at the average eligible individual cost rate as detailed in the table.

Age Cohort	Medical Card			
	Pharmacy	GP	Other	Total Cost
0 - 4 Yrs	€204	€222	€15	€440
5 - 15 Yrs	€184	€119	€12	€316
16 - 44 Yrs	€583	€200	€53	€836
45 - 64 Yrs	€1,124	€322	€87	€1,533
65 - 69 Yrs	€1,499	€379	€102	€1,980
Aged 70 and over	€1,697	€737	€116	€2,550

Note:

- The table above includes the payments made to GPs and Pharmacies and includes under "Other" payments to Dentist, Opticians, and other costs incurred by PRCS in the administration of the schemes. The costs related to other benefits associated with the medical card are not included.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service