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Deputy Smith
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
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Re: To ask the Minister for Health the projected cost of providing two doses of the chicken pox varicella vaccine free to all children through the primary or school child immunisation programme; the estimated annual cost of providing this in 2024; the estimated five-year cost; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The HSE implements programmes on behalf of the Department of Health in line with immunisation policy. It is currently not Department of Health immunisation policy to provide varicella vaccine to children as part of the National Immunisation Programmes.

Therefore, it is not possible to provide an estimated amount of providing the programme. If a vaccine is approved as part of the national immunisation programme a planning and procurement process would commence to support implementation in line with immunisation policy.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop

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