



Michael Lowry, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

PQ: 11071/23

**To ask the Minister for Health where the processing team in the medical card section obtains information on applicants' previous employments and self-employments records (details supplied); the reason requests for historic employment are being made of applicants; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry**

Dear Deputy Lowry,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 11071/23), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

When processing Medical Card Applications, the NMCU have access to the Department of Social Protection (DSP) Listing. This allows us access to claim details and employment details for each applicant to assist us in determining their source of income. In instances where there is a record of employment and it is not clear whether this employment has ceased, we may write out for further documentation or clarification. However, this would only be within the last year, for example, if an applicant has employment history in 2022 that requires clarification, we may write out seeking further information on same. We do not write out regarding employment going back further than the previous year unless it the link with the DSP has not yet been updated. This is because we generally require the latest, most up-to-date information when examining applications.

I hope this clarifies the matter in this case.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Doyle', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement Service