



20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

Email: [Pádraig.maclochlainn@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Pádraig.maclochlainn@oireachtas.ie)

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn

**RE: PQ44188 To ask the Minister for Health to confirm the number of overpayments made by HSE Pensions Management and subsequent requests for repayment letters issued to retired staff in each of the years, 2020, 2021, 2022 and to date in 2023; and to make a statement on the concerns of retired staff in respect of the volume of calculation errors arising. -Pádraig Mac Lochlainn**

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, submitted by you to the Minister for Health. This matter has been referred to me for response on behalf of the HSE.

HSE Pensions Management process on average 33K pensioners on their monthly payroll. There have been a number of pension increases effective from the following dates

01/01/2016 – 01/09/2017 – 01/01/2018 -01/10/20218 – 01/01/2019 – 01/09/2019 – 01/01/2020 -01/10/2020 – 01/10/2021 – 01/02/2022 – 02/02/2022 – 01/10/2022 – 01/03/2023

The number of increases processed for pensioners were in excess of 230,000 and we applied / reapplied increases to all records in 2023 to ensure that all previous entries were correct.

Not all pensioners will have an entitlement to receive pension increases for all dates outlined as entitlement is based on the date of retirement and the level of salary prior to retirement.

The repayment letters have been issued to 80% of pensioners once the true figure has been verified and analysis of overpayment has been prepared. The main reason for the overpayments stems from the fact that not all pensioners were due increases from the reversal of the FEMPI arrangements. The fundamental principle being that an active employee on the same grade / point in scale had to be earning more in terms of basic pay than the basic pay that was used in the calculation of the pension benefits for the retiree. If a pensioner retired before 29/02/2012 then their pension benefits were based on the salary as at 01/09/2008.

The table below outlines the number of overpayments in the years specified

Year	Number of Overpayments	Comment
2020	10	
2021	28	
2022	160	
2023	744	All pension increases were



		processed and up to date – including increases effective from 01/03/2023.
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If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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

Eileen Winnington  
Assistant National Director of HR