



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil  
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Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service  
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Mairead Farrell, T.D.  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

PQ: 6388/25

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card applications received each year since 2020; the number of medical cards total issued each year since 2020; the number of discretionary medical cards issued in each year since 2020, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Mairéad Farrell**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference 6388/25), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. Please see below figures as requested:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Number Means Tested Applications Received ( New & Reviews)	193,861	214,091	254,631	207,384	281,444
New Medical Cards Issued	80,999	63,693	133,892	116,487	91,016
Medical Card Reinstatements	23,681	26,138	44,582	29,935	39,185
Upgrades to Medical Cards	27,097	24,686	28,362	24,956	30,357
<i>Number of Medical cards which are discretionary</i>					
Discretionary Cards Issued	5,166	4,208	3,645	3,378	2,444
Discretionary Card Reinstatements	922	815	1,177	1,059	981
Upgrades to Discretionary Cards	2,557	2,585	2,436	1,955	2,607

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Doyle  
Primary Care Reimbursement Service

The Health Service Executive operates the General Medical Services Scheme, which includes Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards, under the Health Act 1970, as amended. It has established a dedicated contact service for members of the Oireachtas specifically for queries relating to the status of Medical Cards and GP Visit Cards applications, which the Deputy / Senator may wish to use for an earlier response. Tel: 01-8647180 / email: [Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie](mailto:Oireachtas.pcrs@hse.ie)