



21st December, 2021

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, TD
Dáil Eireann
Kildare Street
Dublin 2.

Re PQ: 60174/21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the salaries of the staff that make up the Traveller primary health teams across the country have been frozen since 2008 with no increments; the reason the HSE social inclusion team is not working with the Traveller health units to address the issue as a matter of urgency; and if he will ensure that Traveller health and the staff are treated with respect, dignity and fairness.

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to your above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position:

Voluntary Agencies funded under Section 39 of the Health Act 2004, are managed by the application of either a Grant Aid Agreement (S39- GA) or a Service Arrangement (S39- SA).

Pay and conditions for any worker in a Section 39 funded Agency is the responsibility of the Agency directly. There is no national agreement between the Agencies who employ Traveller Primary Health Care Workers on a national public salary scale. This has resulted in a disparity in the salaries paid by Agencies to Traveller Primary Health Care staff.

The HSE have engaged directly with Agencies managed by a Service Arrangement, who were in receipt of funding during the years of the pay deductions, who remain funded by the HSE since 2019 and who were subjected to deductions in their allocations and they will have received funding relating to pay restoration.

Across the Community Health Organisations there has been a net increase in the hourly rate of pay since 2019.

Social Inclusion nationally and regionally will continue to work in collaboration with the Traveller Organisations and local Traveller Health Structures to ensure Travellers can access HSE Services and are treated with the Respect, Dignity and Fairness.



I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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

Joseph Doyle
National Lead, Social Inclusion