



Circular 027/18

5th September 2018

Use and Retention of
Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)

Dear Doctor,

The purpose of this Circular is to clarify the use of and the retention of a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) for the effective administration and the transaction of the business of public health schemes.

The HSE, as a specified body in SOCIAL WELFARE CONSOLIDATION ACT 2005 – Schedule 5, is authorised to use the PPSN. Accordingly, the use of a PPSN by persons authorised by such specified bodies (HSE) to act on their behalf (e.g. GPs operating under a contract for service) is therefore permissible.

Section 262(4) SOCIAL WELFARE CONSOLIDATION ACT 2005 outlines:

A person shall give to a specified body his or her personal public service number and the personal public service numbers of his or her spouse and children, where relevant, as required by the body for the purposes of the person's transaction.

Article 6 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ([Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)) sets out the '**Lawfulness of processing**' of personal data, which includes inter alia:

1(e) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller

For the avoidance of doubt, the use of and the retention of an eligible person's PPSN is a prerequisite in the provision of general practitioner medical and surgical service to that person, or to his/her spouse or partner and child dependants that are also eligible to such services.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Hoey
Assistant National Director
Primary Care Reimbursement and Eligibility