



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Spending Review 2021 – Exchequer Funding of General Practice 2018-2020

Seán Prior, Robert Scott

Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

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# Spending Review 2021 – Overview, Aims & Objectives



## Overview

- Expenditure on General Practice *Fees & Allowances* is one of the largest items of expenditure with the HSE's Primary Care Reimbursement Service.
- Expenditure was almost €800m in 2020 – an increase of almost 50% over the 2018-2020 period.

## Aims and Objectives

- This note seeks to analyse in greater detail the policy and other drivers behind this increase as well as articulate the extent to which Covid-19 drove this increase.

# Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



## Key Policy Relevant Findings

- The paper finds that the Covid-19 pandemic has driven a significant proportion of the expenditure in 2020.
- Further, the paper finds that some of fees have a questionable rationale from an Exchequer point of view – most notably in cases of additional payments are made in respect of triages for those patients already covered under the GMS.
- It is recommended that all temporary emergency fees are time-bound through legislation and subject to regular review.