

Health Insurance Authority commences public consultation on Lifetime Community Rating in the private health insurance market

Thursday, 19 January 2017 – The Health Insurance Authority has commenced a public consultation on Lifetime Community Rating in the private health insurance market. Lifetime Community Rating was introduced to the private health insurance market in Ireland with effect from 1 May 2015. It introduced a late entry loading on health insurance premiums for those aged 35 years or older taking out private health insurance for the first time. This loading is 2% of the gross premium for each year of age that a person exceeds 34 when they first take out private health insurance. The purpose of Lifetime Community Rating (or 'LCR') is to encourage people to take out private health insurance at a younger age and to maintain cover thereby helping to control average claims costs and premium inflation.

Paragraph 7 of the Statutory Instrument introducing LCR states that the Minister may cause a review of the functioning of these regulations to be carried by the Authority. The Authority has been requested by the Department of Health to carry out such a review in 2017. As part of this review, the Authority is conducting a public consultation on Lifetime Community Rating.

The Authority has issued a consultation paper to inform and assist those who may wish to make a submission as part of this review. The Authority invites submissions on Lifetime Community Rating by 3rd March 2017.

The consultation paper and details on how to make a submission to this review are available from the Authority's website, <http://www.hia.ie/publication/consultation-papers>.

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