Dear Éilis,

I refer to your letter dated 28 November 2019 in which you requested an information note on the categories of information collected for the Public Services Card (PSC) and the process of obtaining the agreement of individuals to collect this information.

SAFE registration is the process used by the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection to establish and verify a person’s identity. Completion of registration to SAFE Level 2 (i.e. substantial level of assurance of identity) is the minimum requirement for a PSC to be issued.

The data that is collected in respect of a person during the SAFE 2 registration process is set out in social welfare legislation¹ and is as follows:

- PPS Number;
- Name;
- Address;
- Date of birth;
- Place of birth;
- Nationality;
- Gender;
- Former surnames (if any);
- Former surnames (if any) of their mother;
- Photograph; and
- Signature.

In cases where a person already has a PPS Number, most of this data is already held by the Department and is verified during the SAFE registration process.

¹ Section (262 (1) & Section 262 (3) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005 as amended
Social welfare legislation also provides that a person's name, PPS Number, photograph and signature are shown on a PSC and that the PSC also contains the following personal data in electronic format - PPS Number, name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality, gender, former surnames (of the person and their mother), photograph and signature.

The PSC does not contain any information regarding a person's health, financial details and/or education. Nor does it contain any biometric data or any information on their use of public services.

The requirement to authenticate identity is set out in social welfare legislation\(^2\). Where a person is requested to apply - or under their own volition decides to apply - for a PSC or a PPS Number, this data is collected as part of that process.

If you have further queries, or if I can help the Committee in any other way, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

John Mc Keon  
Secretary General  
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

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