



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannán Cúraim Shóisialaigh – CHO 1
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Tony McLoughlin T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

12/11/2019

RE: PQ 47058/19

Dear Deputy McLoughlin

I refer to the above-mentioned Parliamentary Question.

Question

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason a new transport charge of €4 for persons with disabilities that are travelling to HSE day services has been introduced in County Sligo; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Tony McLoughlin T.D.

Answer

The HSE works with Local Link in Sligo and Leitrim, to provide a co-ordinated and efficient transport service, for all service users going to day services run or funded by the HSE. The HSE pays 90% of the costs of this day service transport, with the remainder funded through passenger fares. The HSE has no remit to provide transport but recognises that service users living in rural areas would not be able to access services without transport supports.

This partnership commenced in Sligo and Leitrim in 2012. Most day services commenced collecting transport fares in centre from that time. However, some centres did not collect these fares and some passengers are now being requested to pay fares for the first time.

The collection of fares commenced on these 'closed' routes (i.e. not open to the general public but for HSE service users only) in October 2019. This will ensure equity for all service users.

Building a Better Health Service

CARE COMPASSION TRUST LEARNING

Those service users who are using a public Local Link bus route, to get to their day service, can avail of their free bus pass on these routes.

In the other areas of CHO1 (Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan) this system is exactly the same. Passengers on HSE 'closed' routes also pay the €4 fare.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Denise Curran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Curran
General Manager,
Social Care CHO 1