



27 October 2020

Deputy Pearse Doherty, TD  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ/20/29660 - To ask the Minister for Health the way in which a person that is an Irish citizen that requires long term care that is resident in a nursing home in Northern Ireland can apply for the fair deal scheme and return to live here; the way in which the assessment can take place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Doherty,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

To apply for the Nursing Homes Support Scheme, a person must be ordinarily resident in the State. 'Ordinarily resident' for the purpose of this scheme is defined as *meaning that "a person has been living in Ireland for at least a year or that they intend to live in Ireland for at least a year"*.

To apply for the Scheme, a person should submit a completed Fair Deal application form to the relevant Nursing Homes Support Scheme Office. The application will be assessed from both a financial and a care needs perspective.

The financial assessment includes a person's income and assets in order to calculate his/her contribution to care. A person's contribution is based on 80% of his/her assessable income and 7.5% of the value of any assets. It should also be noted that the first €36,000 or €72,000, for a member of a couple, of the value of the person's cash and non-assets are disregarded as part of the financial assessment.

It is important to note that in accordance with the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009 (as amended), Ancillary State Support (the nursing home loan) can only be paid in respect of property located within the State and therefore cannot be paid in respect of properties located in Northern Ireland. A Care Needs Assessment can be arranged based on the circumstances of an individual application.

All applications are assessed in accordance with the Nursing Homes Support Scheme Act 2009 (as amended). Information on the Scheme, contact details for Nursing Homes Support Scheme Offices and the application form are available on the HSE Website at the following link <https://www2.hse.ie/services/fair-deal-scheme/about-the-fair-deal-scheme.html>.

I hope this clarifies the position.



Oifig an Cheannasaí Oibríochtaí & Feabhsúcháin Seirbhíse  
Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Scothaosta

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Tuohy".

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**Sandra Tuohy**  
Assistant National Director, Head of Operations & Service Improvement  
Services for Older People