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23rd December 2021
Mr James Lawless TD
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Lawless,

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

PQ 62459/21: To ask the Minister for Health if there is a hospital transfer service in place for elderly persons that are unable to drive to hospital appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

In January 2012, the HSE implemented the 'Non Ambulance Patient Transport Policy'. Where a patient/client is living independently in the community, they may continue to be eligible for HSE Non Ambulance Patient Transport Services (PTS) in line with nationally consistent criteria.

The provision of such services are within the scope of HSE Community Services and any request for such transport support should be referred to the Public Health Nursing Service in each area in the first instance, whom may in line with this policy, approve the provision of such transport.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'U. Hynes', written over a horizontal line.

Ultan Hynes
Head of Service, NHSS