



**Richard O'Donoghue TD**  
Dail Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**PQ 10699/21**

**“To ask the Minister for Health his position on alternative travel arrangements for patients awaiting a primary medical assessment; if funding will be allocated to patients for transport to medical appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Richard O'Donoghue”**

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 10699/21), which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

There are challenges in some CHO areas in progressing assessments for primary medical certificates due to redeployment of Medical Officers particularly in regard to the COVID Vaccine Programme and management of outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities across the country. The HSE is currently revising its service recovery and restoration plans taking account of the COVID pressure challenges presenting. Assessments for primary medical certificates are considered in that context. The HSE has no plans at present to put alternative arrangements in place for patients awaiting a primary medical assessment or to allocate funding to patients for transport to medical appointments.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TJ Dunford'.

**TJ Dunford**  
Head of Operations; Primary Care.  
Community Operations.