



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

405200108
HSE South,
Lacken,
Dublin Road,
Kilkenny,
Ireland.

Telephone 353 56 7784100
Fax 353 56 7784388

Deputy Richard Bruton TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

18th October 2021

PQ47554/21* *“To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons supported under the EU scheme for treatment abroad in the most recent twelve months for which data is available; the number that were treated in Northern Ireland; the number treated in the rest of the UK; and the scope for such patients to continue to exercise these options in 2021 in view of the Brexit.”*

Dear Deputy Bruton,

Thank you for your PQ above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

The tables below provide the available information in relation to your query.

The HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme allows for a patient to be referred abroad for treatment which is not available within the state.

Year	Applications approved
2020	514
2021 (YTD)	304

Country	Year	Approved Applications
UK Total	2021	169
	2020	421
Northern Ireland	2021	7
	2020	37

The HSE Cross Border Directive allows for a patient to choose to access healthcare in another EU/EEA member state which they would be entitled to receive in the public health system in Ireland.

Activity Description	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>CBD</u>	<u>2021</u> <u>NIPHS</u>
Forms Issued by the NCP	2,636	345	1673
Queries to the NCP*	2,624	1,728	3036
No. of reimbursements processed**	4,723	1417	398
Prior Authorisation Applications approved	1,386	317	454
Value of claims Processed	€15,376,103.14	€5,733,737.76	€1,093,261.60

Prior to 31st December 2021, the HSE operated the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme and the HSE Cross Border Directive for patients as above.


As part of the Trade and Co-Operation Agreement between the EU and the UK, the TAS remains operational in exactly the same way post Brexit.

The CBD is no longer available for patients who wish to access care in the UK as it was not included in the provisions of the Trade and Co-Operation Agreement.

However, the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) became operational in 2021 to allow patients to continue to choose to access private healthcare in Northern Ireland in much the same way as was provided for under the CBD. The scheme was introduced to operate for 12 months on an administrative basis initially with the continuation of the scheme to be considered and enacted through legislation as appropriate. I understand that the legislation is being drafted and until the legislation is enacted access to healthcare in the private healthcare system in Northern Ireland will continue on an administrative basis. The NIPHS does not include access to healthcare in Great Britain.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0872668759 or via catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,


 Catherine Donohoe
 A/Assistant National Director