



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Rannan na nOspideil Ghearmhíochaine
Aonad 4A – Áras Dargan
An Ceantar Theas
An Bothar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneann
BÁC 8

Acute Operations
Health Service Executive
Unit 4A - The Dargan Building
Heuston South Quarter
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8.

20nd September 2021

Deputy Alan Dillon

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2.

PQ 41853/21: RE if consideration is being given to the establishment of a dedicated Intestinal Failure Unit in Ireland; the assistance in place for those currently travelling to the United Kingdom for related treatments

Dear Deputy Dillon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I wish to advise you that St James's Hospital (SJH) and CHI at Crumlin are the 2 national sites for Intestinal Failure Units. Funding provided to SJH in 2018 for Consultant, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Dietician in order to provide supports for intestinal failure rehabilitation for transition patients from CHI and a rehabilitation service for SJH patients.

In respect of assistance to people travelling abroad, I am advised that, in general, the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) allows public patients in Ireland to apply to the HSE for funding of treatments which are not available in Ireland. Each application is assessed and a decision given specific to the individual case. The TAS allows for public patient access in another EU country, an EEA Country, Switzerland or the UK. The HSE through the provisions

of EU Regulation 883/2004 pays the country abroad directly for the treatment (does not involve the patient paying upfront and then being reimbursed from the HSE).

The HSE does not fund travel or subsistence for patients accessing healthcare in Ireland or abroad under the provisions of the TAS. However, it is recognised that air or sea fares are not an expense a patient would incur in accessing healthcare within Ireland. On this basis air or sea fares for the patient are reimbursed to the patient under the TAS's National Travel Policy.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Ivory', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Carol Ivory
General Manager,
Acute Operations