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Deputy David Stanton TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

PQ61224/22\* *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the operation of the treatment abroad scheme; his plans to improve and streamline the operation of same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”.*

Dear Deputy Stanton,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.


The Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) allows for an Irish based public hospital consultant to refer their patient to the public system of another EU/EEA member state, the UK or Switzerland for treatment that is not available in Ireland. Approved patients are issued with form E112/S2 for their appointments.

The TAS operates pursuant to EU Regulation 883/2004 and Department of Health guidelines. Over the years the TAS have put in place all practical solutions to streamline the process for applications. This includes the drafting of protocols for automatic approval of applications that meet the criteria of the scheme for treatments which are known not to be available in Ireland.

We appreciate that completing application forms at a time when seeking treatment in another country can be stressful for patients. We give our assurances that we will continue to adjust processes in consideration of the patients where such adjustments are appropriate. I am attaching the HSE TAS information document as an example of our efforts to inform and assist patients.

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](mailto:catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie).

Yours sincerely,

  
Catherine Donohoe  
A/Assistant National Director