



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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

04th August 2022

PQ4062822* *“To ask the Minister for Health the amount that the HSE has spent on European Union Cross Border Directive healthcare provision in each of the years 2016 to 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; the name of the hospital; and the name of any other agency to which related payments were made in each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

In general, the Cross Border Directive (CBD) allows public patients to access healthcare in another EU/EEA country which they are entitled to access in Ireland. The patient pays for the treatment up front and claims reimbursement upon return to Ireland. Reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in Ireland whichever is the lesser. Public patient pathways as they apply to accessing the same healthcare in Ireland apply to accessing the healthcare abroad under the CBD.

The healthcare patients’ access under the CBD may be accessed in the public or private sector abroad. We do not record the value of reimbursements by the public or private status of the provider abroad. However, below I am setting out the value of reimbursements which have been made to patients since 2014 when the CBD came into effect in Ireland.

Activity Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Reimbursements processed**	7	150	1,025	2,011	3,886	4,961	4,723	1,914	530
Value of claims Processed	€29,265	€585,863	€2,499,967	€4,433,642	€12,288,398	€13,121,259	€15,376,103	€7,811,328	€2,063,096.81

*Data on the number of queries is compiled based on new enquiries only. All other telephone queries from applicants on other telephone lines additional to the general line number and e-mails coming from applicants are currently not being recorded. For example, requests for updates regarding the status of an application, explanation of an incomplete/decline/reimbursement letter issued will be dealt with by the member of staff processing that application.

**This figure is the actual number of reimbursements processed for payment. Each reimbursement may include both consultations and treatment but is treated as a single reimbursement. The next table captures details of the individual reimbursements on a patients claim.

I can confirm that the HSE has no association with any private company assisting patient access healthcare abroad under the Cross Border Directive (CBD). We refer to these companies as third party providers.

The HSE CBD processes reimbursement directly to the patient only. No payments are made to other agencies, third party providers or hospitals abroad.

I apologise we do not collate the data by facility of treatment.

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