

Mr Brendan Smith TD
Cavan / Monaghan
3 Carrickfern
Cavan
Co Cavan

7th June 2022

Re: - PQ ref 28811/22 - The need to remove charges for transport for persons attending Training Centres in areas such as Cavan and Monaghan. In many instances such trainees have to pay for private services such as physiotherapy and the travel costs is another unfair burden. HSE have already refused to remove these charges.

Dear Deputy Smith,

I refer to your representation which was forwarded to my office for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position;

I can advise that the HSE has no remit for providing transport but acknowledges that those in rural areas require assistance to access their services due to lack of local transport options. CHO1 has a limited transport budget and paid over €2m for transport in the area. Service users transport to day services is 90% supplemented by the HSE.

Day service passengers in all areas in CHO1 have been asked to pay €4 return on closed HSE transport routes as a contribution to the overall costs. The most passengers have to pay in any year if they attend their service 5 days a week is €940 as day services transport provision is offered 47 weeks per annum.

Passengers fares commenced in 2008 in Donegal, 2012 in Sligo and Leitrim and 2019 in Cavan and Monaghan. Passengers receive a high quality service, provided by Garda vetted drivers and bus assistants, in the shortest possible times.

Service users are able to use the public Local Link services were available to reach their day service and they are able to use their free transport pass on these routes. Unfortunately, the National Transport Authority does not provide funding to Local Link or the HSE for the HSE closed routes to enable the use of free transport passes on these services

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Edel Quinn
Head of Service Disability CHO1
Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Eagraíocht Chúram Sláinte Limistéar 1