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Deputy Denis Naughten TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

12th July 2022

PQ34331/22* *“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that medical card holders entitled to a medical card as a result of getting a social security pension from the United Kingdom or working and paying social insurance in the UK are not informed that they will not receive cover under the cross-Border directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy Naughten,

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

Under the social security provisions of the EU UK Trade & Cooperation Agreement (TCA), a person for whom the UK is competent is, if they move to live in Ireland, entitled to a non-means tested medical card if they meet any of the following requirements:

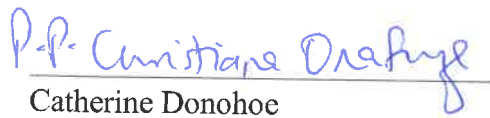
- ordinarily resident in the Republic of Ireland and,
- insured under the social security legislation of another EU/EEA member state, Switzerland or UK; i.e. receiving a social security pension from that state or working and paying social insurance in that state
- not subject to Irish social security legislation. A person is subject to Irish social security legislation if they are receiving a contributory Irish social welfare payment or are subject to PRSI in the Irish State.

Prior to the 1st January 2021, UK pensioners residing in Ireland who had accessed healthcare under the EU Cross Border Directive were required to have their healthcare costs reimbursed by the UK as this was a requirement of the provisions of the EU Cross Border Directive and specifically EU Regulation 883/2004 for the co-ordination of entitlement. As a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the provisions of the EU Cross Border Directive no longer apply to the UK.

What this means in effect is that persons who are in receipt of an income from the UK – pensioners, frontier workers or posted workers and their dependents – are no longer covered by the provisions of the Cross Border Directive as the UK did not provide for same in the Trade & Co-Operation Agreement.

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