



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Róisín Shortall TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

9th Sept 2022

PQ 44062/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason that a HSE representative attended the official opening of a hospital clinic in Benidorm, Spain, in July 2022; the cost of this visit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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

Under the provisions of Directive 2011/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2011 on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare patients from Ireland may access healthcare in another EU or EEA country and seek reimbursement.

Under the provisions of the Directive each country was required to establish National Contact Points (NCP). Ireland established one NCP.

The NCP has many roles including those recently legislated for under the EU Regulation 2018/1724 on the Single Digital Gateway. Among the roles and responsibilities of the National Contact Point set out in the Directive is the requirement to engage with all stakeholders. I refer you specifically to paragraph 49 and to Article 6 (1).

Article 6 National contact points for cross-border healthcare

“1. Each Member State shall designate one or more national contact points for cross-border healthcare and communicate their names and contact details to the Commission. The Commission and the Member States shall make this information publicly available. Member States shall ensure that the national contact points consult with patient organisations, healthcare providers and healthcare insurers.”

The cost of the official's travel was €951 as provided for under public service travel and subsistence rates and the Ryanair flights were booked using the Government travel agent as is required under National Financial Regulations.

I hope the foregoing provides the information requested but please feel free to contact me on 0872668759 or via catherinet.donohoe@hse.ie if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe

A/Assistant National Director.