

Richard Boyd Barrett TD,  
People Before Profit,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

e. [richard.boydbarrett@oireachtas.ie](mailto:richard.boydbarrett@oireachtas.ie)

5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Re: PQ18620/23

**To ask the Minister for Health the treatment available in Ireland to a patient who is suffering from stage four oesophageal cancer which has spread; if no treatment is available, what options are available to the patient to have treatment outside of Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

The current standard of care for patients with Stage IV oesophageal cancer within the HSE is chemotherapy and/or monoclonal antibody therapy (Trastuzumab) which is available in systemic anti-cancer treatment centres nationally. Palliative care support is also available in centres as required.

Options for patients to have treatment outside of Ireland falls under the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) governed by the EU in line with the Department of Health and Children guidelines. The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) provides clinical oversight of any request to TAS which pertains to cancer treatments, as required.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick Cafferty,  
Assistant National Director,  
National Cancer Control Programme