



Bainisteoir Ginearálta Cúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Thoir

Bloc B, Lárionad Cathrach, An tSráid
Mhór, Bré, Co. Chill Mhantáin, A98 X329.

General Manager Primary Care
Community Healthcare East

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08th March 2023

Deputy Stephen Matthews
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 5550/23

Rathdrum Cancer Support

'To ask the Minister for Health if any grant support is being considered to support community groups including a group (details supplied) to assist with providing transport for sick members to hospital appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

Dear Deputy Matthews,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Here-to-fore, the HSE Primary Care Division in Community Healthcare East has not provided grant or financial assistance to Rathdrum Cancer Support to assist with providing transport for sick members to hospital appointments.

However, Community Healthcare East does have a grant aid agreement with Purple House, which includes a transport service by trained staff and volunteer to and from hospitals, hospices, clinics or Purple House for cancer related appointments. Purple House covers the Wicklow area, and can be contacted on (01) 286 6966 or <https://www.purplehouse.ie/>.

Similarly, of note, the Irish Cancer Society, provides a travel scheme to help some patients pay to travel to cancer test and treatment, which is funded by the National Cancer Care Programme (NCCP). In addition to this the Irish Cancer Society runs a Volunteer Driver Service that provides transport for cancer patients to and from their



chemotherapy appointments, which is free to the patient and the hospital. Referral to the service is through the hospital social worker or chemotherapy nurse.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Niamh McAlinden', written in a cursive style.

Niamh McAlinden,
Head of Service, Primary Care.