



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Peadar Tóibín TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023

PQ5865/23 *"To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients with an address in the north of Ireland that have used hospital services in each of the past five years."*

Dear Deputy Tóibín,

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

We are responding with regard to the areas within our remit only, other departments within the HSE will provide further information within their remit. There are a number of mechanisms by which a patient with a Northern Ireland address may access healthcare in Ireland, I will seek to address each of those mechanisms hereunder:

**Cross Border Directive scheme and the scheme organised in Northern Ireland replacing the Directive up to July 2022.**

The information in relation to patients accessing healthcare in Ireland from Northern Ireland using the Cross Border Directive and the replacement scheme up to July 2022 would only be available from the Department of Health in Northern Ireland.

**EU Regulation 883/2004**

The HSE provides, on occasion, specialised healthcare to patients from Northern Ireland via Regulation 883/2004. The numbers of patients who have accessed healthcare via this mechanism is less than 5 in any year therefore on the basis of patient confidentiality we are unable to provide any further details.

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe

A/Assistant National Director