



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

405200108  
HSE South,  
Lacken,  
Dublin Road,  
Kilkenny,  
Ireland.

Telephone 353 56 7784100  
Fax 353 56 7784388

Deputy Jim O'Callaghan TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

PQ63146/22\* *“To ask the Minister for Health the amount that the State has paid under the treatment abroad scheme for patients to travel to other EU member states or the UK to have pharmacological treatments that were not reimbursed yet in Ireland, such as cellular therapies or gene therapies, in the years 2020 to 2022.”*


Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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

In general, the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for approval of funding in respect of a proven treatment that is not available in Ireland. The TAS may not be used to access drug therapies in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland. Drug therapies are funded in Ireland under specific protocols and access e.g. the High Tech Drug Scheme. There is a specific protocol in the HSE for consultants to seek access to high tech drug therapies for their patients.

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

Yours sincerely,

  
PP Catherine Donohoe  
A/Assistant National Director