



Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse  
Sláinte  
Lána an Mhuilinn  
Baile Phámar  
Baile Átha Cliath 20

☎: 01-620 1600

National Renal Office  
Clinical Design and Innovation  
Health Service Executive  
Mill Lane  
Palmerstown  
Dublin 20

**PQ13144/23 To ask the Minister for Health the arrangements in place to ensure dialysis patients can get treatment in different centres around the country to allow them visit relatives or go on holiday within the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

**Response:**

There is a detailed policy document and process to allow patients to get treatment in different centres around the country allowing them to visit relatives or go on holidays within the state. This is known as “Holiday Dialysis” or “Dialysis Away from Base” (DAFB). These details are published on the HSE website.

There are specific restrictions in organising DAFB, that include medical suitability for travel, isolation requirements if applicable and capacity in the local unit where the patient proposes to travel to.

The demand for dialysis treatment is at an all-time high in Ireland as a consequence of Covid 19 and capacity is limited. Therefore advance notice is required and it may not be possible to facilitate haemodialysis treatment in a preferred location at a specific time. Patients may have to consider looking at dialysis further away from the initial requested destination or choose another alternative timeframe.

The Consultant Nephrologists in the local renal units have clinical governance over the unit and the patients attending under their care so they would be best place to advice on capacity and availability.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Prof George Mellotte  
National Clinical Lead for Renal Services  
National Renal Office

