



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Deputy Louise O'Reilly TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

12<sup>th</sup> April 2023

PQ15387/23\* *“To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of the services that can be accessed via the treatment abroad scheme for children facing unacceptably long waits for assessment of need and early intervention; which therapies that are covered; if there are any particular qualifying criteria that parents of these children have to satisfy; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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

In general terms, the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) allows for an Irish based public hospital consultant to refer their public patient to the public health system of another EU/EEA, the UK or Switzerland for treatment which is not available in Ireland.

The patient requires to be referred to a service abroad by the treating public consultant. In the case of undue delay the consultant will be required to outline the extent to which the patient's healthcare will deteriorate without earlier intervention.

However, the services in question can be accessed under the provisions of HSE CBD and NIPHS. The HSE Cross Border Directive and HSE Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare schemes allow for a person to access healthcare abroad for which they are entitled to access in the public health system in Ireland. The patient is required to pay for the healthcare abroad and claim reimbursement from the HSE NCP office. The reimbursement rate will be based on the cost of the healthcare abroad or the cost of the healthcare in the public system in Ireland, whichever is the lesser.

The HSE NIPHS office has become aware of a particular private provider who is currently establishing an assessment service with autism which is consultant led and is based in Northern Ireland. The HSE has engaged with this private provider in relation to the scope of the service that provider will provide to patients.

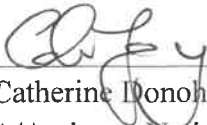
If patients would like the contact details for that particular service please let me know and I will be happy to provide same. This should not be seen as an endorsement of the service, but rather this information is being offered in assisting the patient on the basis of contacts being

made directly by the provider with the HSE. There may be other providers in Northern Ireland equally offering these services.

I am enclosing the information document on each of the schemes for your reference.

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

Yours sincerely,



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