



20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Mr Michael Healy-Rae, TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 49107** To ask the Minister for Health the number of people with an address in County Kerry that are waiting for an outpatient appointment for cataracts; the number waiting for cataracts removal; the number that have availed of the cross-border scheme for cataract removal; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above which has been forwarded to me for reply with regard to the Cross Border Directive Scheme element.

The Cross Border Directive (CBD) is a scheme to get planned healthcare in another European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) member state, which is underpinned by EU legislation. The patient must pay upfront for the healthcare they get abroad and under the scheme can apply to the HSE for reimbursement towards the cost of the healthcare after treatment. The patient needs a valid referral and must qualify for the healthcare as a public patient in Ireland.

Activity and service user data relating to the Overseas Treatment Schemes is collated and reported at a high level in order to ensure service user confidentiality, therefore specific data on the number of individuals from Kerry who have accessed CBD is not reported.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walsh".

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David Walsh  
National Director  
National Schemes & Reimbursement