



National Schemes and Reimbursement Service

Room 138, Dr. Steevens' Hospital,
Dublin 8.
D08 W2A8

29th April 2024

Mr Éamon Ó Cúiv TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 15333 To ask the Minister for Health whether he is considering expanding the treatment abroad scheme to include an allowance for accommodation, and other such essential expenses; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Cúiv,

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

The HSE is responsible for ensuring the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) is made available to service users in compliance with the provisions of EU Regulations 883/2004 and implementing Regulation 987/2009. These Regulations do not include a provision for the reimbursement or funding of travel and/or subsistence for patients.

However the HSE has in place a policy to assist users of the service which provides for the reimbursement of economic air or sea fares. In certain circumstances, if medically necessary, the air and sea fares of a companion are also reimbursed. In the case of a paediatric patient the air and sea fares of up to two parents or guardians are reimbursed.

Should there be a change to EU Regulation/s which enable service users to request reimbursement for accommodation and other such essential expenses, the HSE would work to implement the administration of this through the Overseas Treatment Schemes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David Walsh'.

David Walsh
National Director
National Schemes & Reimbursement