



Deputy Colm Burke T.D.,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

PQ : 16144/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of recipients of the HSE treatment abroad scheme aged 0 to 24 years of age who have travelled outside of Ireland for specialised cancer treatment not available in Ireland in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, in tabular form; including the total number of applicants to the scheme seeking to avail of specialised cancer treatment for each of those years, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Burke,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above, which was passed to the HSE for response.

In general the Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) provides for the funding of a public patient from Ireland to access treatment which is not available in Ireland, in another EU/EEA country, the UK or Switzerland. A core principle of the governing legislation, EU Regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009 is that the patient must apply for and be granted prior authorisation before accessing the treatment. The HSE cannot be held liable for the costs of healthcare, the HSE has not agreed in advance to assume.

I am setting out hereunder a table with the information requested:

| Year | 0 – 24 years of age |                 |
|------|---------------------|-----------------|
|      | No. of Applications | No. of Patients |
| 2024 | 49                  | 48              |
| 2023 | 42                  | 36              |
| 2022 | 28                  | 26              |
| 2021 | 30                  | 27              |
| 2020 | 28                  | 27              |

Note: Please note the disparity between the “applications” and “patients” figures, relates to a patient applying more than once in a given year e.g. in 2024 1 patient submitted two separate applications.

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

—  
Catherine Donohoe  
Head of Function/Service