



Ceann Feidhme/Seitbhíse,
Seirbhísí agus Scéimeanna Náisiúnta

Oifig Uimh. 3, Coimhleasc Oifige Chill
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Deputy Martin Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

24th April 2025

PQ: 21190/25

To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to provide transport for vulnerable patients who lack personal support networks when traveling to Northern Ireland for medical treatment (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Details Supplied There is a specific group of individuals who are offered treatment in Northern Ireland but are unable to avail of it due to transportation.

Dear Deputy Daly,

Thank you for your parliamentary question referenced above.

Patients access healthcare in the private healthcare sector in Northern Ireland under the provisions of the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme. In general the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) allows for the reimbursement of public patients from Ireland who choose to access necessary healthcare in the private healthcare sector in Northern Ireland. The patient is reimbursed at the cost of the healthcare in Ireland or the cost of the healthcare in Northern Ireland, whichever is the lesser.

The NIPHS does not require the HSE to assume any additional costs that would not have been assumed if the patient had accessed the care in the public healthcare sector in Ireland. This provision includes the cost of travel or the arrangement of travel for patients who choose to use the NIPHS. I regret that patients using the Scheme must organise and fund their own travel.

I hope this provides the clarification requested but if I can be of any further assistance in this matter please don't hesitate to revert to me.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe
Head of Function/Service