



Deputy Paul Lawless, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

PQ: 12083/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of people who have accessed treatment for endometriosis under the Cross-Border Directive legislation.

Dear Deputy Lawless,

I refer to your parliamentary question referenced above, which was passed on to the HSE for response.

In general, the Cross Border Directive (CBD) allows public patients in Ireland to access necessary healthcare in another EU or EEA country and be reimbursed for the treatment upon return to Ireland. The reimbursement is at the cost of the treatment abroad or the cost of the treatment in Ireland, whichever is the lesser. Travel and other costs associated with accessing the healthcare abroad are not covered. An overriding principle of the Directive 2011/24/EU is that the home country (e.g. Ireland) is not required to assume any costs it would not have assumed if the patient had accessed the treatment in Ireland.

I regret we cannot provide the numbers of patients who have accessed treatment for endometriosis under the CBD. We do not gather information on the diagnosis and or treatments patients seek to access abroad under the CBD. Patients referred abroad for endometriosis treatment may access the healthcare from various specialists, e.g. general surgeons, urologists, gastroenterologists, gynaecologists, etc. Therefore we regret we cannot provide details of how many patients have travelled abroad for endometriosis treatment.

I am sorry we could not be of more assistance in this question but if we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Donohoe  
Head of Function/Service  
National Services & Schemes