



2nd April, 2025

Deputy Eamon Scanlon
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 9755/25

“To ask the Minister for Health to provide urgent funding for a new bus for cancer patients travelling for treatments in the northwest; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Scanlon

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

Having examined the matter, I can confirm that Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH), with the assistance of The Friends of Letterkenny University Hospital, commenced a new patient transport service for Donegal patients who need to travel to Galway for hospital appointments on 6th August 2024. There is no charge for this bus service and the bus is wheelchair accessible.

The bus leaves LUH at 6.30am on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday (except public holidays) and departs University Hospital Galway at 4pm in the afternoon for the return journey to LUH.

Patients along with one carer / companion can travel for free but must book their seat beforehand by calling 074 9741644. When making a booking, patients will be required to provide their appointment letter / details of their appointment for UHG.

In addition, the following financial supports are available to patients in Donegal who have to travel for hospital appointments or treatment outside of the county.

- The Irish Cancer Society Travel2Care scheme is available to provide financial support for patients in meeting some of the costs of travelling to appointments at designated cancer centres, approved centres and approved children's hospitals nationwide.



- The Friends of Letterkenny University Hospital (LUH) provide a bus link for Donegal patients attending St. Luke's Hospital in Dublin. This bus runs weekly to take patients from LUH to St. Luke's and returns from St Luke's to LUH every Friday.
- Patients attending the North West Cancer Centre in Derry and who live over 70 minutes' travel time away are offered free accommodation in Derry to attend appointments at the Centre.
- The Friends of Letterkenny Hospital, Saolta and LUH Management are currently developing a pilot scheme to provide a daily bus shuttle for Donegal patients from LUH to Galway University Hospital on a return journey basis. It is anticipated that this service will commence on a phased basis in the near future.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Le Dea-mhein

Dermot Monaghan

Bainisteoir Limistéar Sláinte Comhtháite, Dhún na nGall
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