

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

17/02/2017 - 24/02/2017



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved at 00:01 on Thursday 26 January 2017.

The elections will take place on Thursday 2 March 2017.



Tuesday 21 February 2017

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

EU Funding

Pearse Doherty asked the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport the EU funds his Department accesses; the plans he is putting in place to access these funds to a greater degree in view of Brexit; if he will outline initiatives he is pursuing to establish access to new funds in view of the challenge of Brexit; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Shane Ross: Agencies under the remit of my Department and my Department access EU co-funding under EU Programmes such as the Connecting Europe Facility, Interreg and to a lesser extent Horizon 2020. Agencies under the remit of my Department also avail of European Investment Bank funding.

Concerns about the implications of the UK exit on current and future EU funding programmes were raised at the All-Island Transport and Logistics Sectorial Dialogue which I hosted in Dundalk on 23 January 2017. The Dialogue was attended by over 100 transport and civic representatives from North and South. EU funding, particularly for cross border projects, was one of the issues identified by representatives and indeed was one of the implications of the UK exit already identified by my Department.

As part of the Government structures put in place since the UK Referendum, an Inter-Departmental Group was established to assess the implications for EU funding programmes. My Department is represented on that Group. The analyses of the Group feeds into the overall Government analyses and response to the UK exit.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2017-02-21a.1695&s=cross-border+2017-02-17..2017-02-24#g1697.r>

Tuesday 21 February 2017

Department of Finance

Brexit Issues

Gerry Adams asked the Minister for Finance if he will provide the documentation regarding the agreement he referred to with the British Government that there will be no return to the Border of the past; and if he will make a statement on the matter..

Michael Noonan: Ireland has a strong and unequivocal position on our priorities for dealing with Brexit. These are minimising the impact on trade and the economy, protecting the Northern Ireland Peace Process, maintaining the Common Travel Area and influencing the future of the European Union.

As the Taoiseach has stated publicly, the Irish Government will oppose a hard border, argue for free movement on this island, seek EU funding for cross-border projects and protect the rights of EU citizens, whether from North or South.

As the Taoiseach has also stated, it is a matter of vital national interest for Ireland that we do not return to the days of a hard border, or indeed create a new one in the future; this is a political matter, not a legal or technical matter - it will have to be solved by political leadership and will require creativity, imagination and innovation. In all of our discussions with the UK Government we have emphasised the necessity of ensuring the continued free flow of trade on the island and the need to avoid a hard border and have made clear that any manifestation of a hard border would have very negative consequences.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2017-02-21a.367&s=cross-border+2017-02-17..2017-02-24#g369.r>

Thursday 23 February 2017

Department of Health

Cross-Border Health Initiatives

Brendan Smith asked the Minister for Health the status of the cross-Border health care directive; to make the details of this scheme more widely available particularly for persons that are on long waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Simon Harris: The Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross Border Healthcare provides rules for the reimbursement of patients' of the cost of receiving treatment abroad, where the patient would be entitled to such treatment in their home Member State (Member State of Affiliation) and supplements the rights that patients already have at EU level through the legislation on the coordination of social security schemes (Regulation 883/04).

The Directive seeks to ensure a clear and transparent framework for the provision of cross- border healthcare within the EU, for those occasions where the care patients seek is provided in another Member State rather than in their home country.

It is important to note that patients are not funded up front for their treatment abroad under Directive, rather they are reimbursed the lower of, either the cost of treatment in Ireland, or the cost of treatment abroad. Furthermore, travel, accommodation and general living costs before, and following, the treatment, are not reimbursed. It is also important to note that treatment which requires an overnight stay must be approved in advance. This facilitates the provision of the patient of an estimate of the costs which will be reimbursed and allows a period of reflection regarding the decision to access treatment abroad.

All hospitals have been provided by the [HSE](#) with text on the Directive to be included in waiting list correspondence. This text advises patients of the provisions of the Directive, and their entitlement to access healthcare under it in another EU/EEA country if they so choose. Information sessions with hospitals on the Directive continue to be offered, and promoted, by the acute hospital division of the [HSE](#).

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2017-02-23a.934&s=cross-border+2017-02-17..2017-02-24>