

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

16 November 2018 – 23 November 2018



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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



Tuesday 20 November 2018

Department for Health

Tommy Broughan asked the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there is no facility for persons who require an upright MRI and that persons must travel to England for same at a cost of €1,600; if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that this is not covered under the EU cross-border directive; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Simon Harris: As the provision of specific services in the acute hospital setting are an operational matter for the [HSE](#) I have asked the [HSE](#) to respond directly to the Deputy on the issue of lack of upright MRI facilities.

In relation to accessing upright MRI facilities it is noted that patients often access services in other EU/EEA member states under different routes.

The Treatment Abroad Scheme (TAS) allows public patients to be referred to another EU/EEA country for treatment that is not available in Ireland, subject to qualifying criteria. A patient's Irish based consultant is responsible for referring the patient abroad under the terms of the TAS, after having

exhausted all treatment options including tertiary care within Ireland. Applications to the TAS are processed and a determination given in accordance with the statutory framework prior to a patient travelling to avail of treatment. The statutory framework stipulates the patient must be a public patient and is required to have followed public patient pathways. Also, the treatment must be a proven treatment and not experimental/trial and it must be provided in the public health service of the country which the patient is being referred to.

In relation to the Cross Border Directive (CBD), patients in Ireland can seek to be referred to another EU/EEA country for medical treatment that is available in the public health service in Ireland. The patient may access the overseas service in either the public or private health sector of the country they choose to receive the service in. The patient pays for the treatment and claims reimbursement from the [HSE](#) at the cost of that treatment in Ireland or the cost of it abroad, whichever is the lesser.

Further information on the TAS may be obtained from the [HSE](#) website, by phone at 056 77845548 or by writing to the TAS Office, St. Canice's Hospital Complex, Dublin Road, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny. The contact details for the CBD are: National Contact Point: [HSE](#) Cross Border Directive, St Canice's Hospital, Dublin Road, Kilkenny. Tel: 056 778 4547 or 056 778 4546 or 056 778 4556. email: crossborderdirective@hse.ie.

Source <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-11-13a.116&s=cross+border+2018-11-09..2018-11-16#g117.q>

Tuesday 20 November 2018

Department of An Taoiseach

Mary Lou McDonald asked the Taoiseach if he will report on his recent visit to County Cavan; the engagements he undertook; and if he met with stakeholders to discuss the impact of Brexit.

Leo Varadkar: I visited Counties Cavan and Monaghan on Friday 12th of October when I had a number of different engagements.

In the morning, I visited the Cavan County Museum in Ballyjamesduff, the new Autism Unit in Bailieborough Community School and Bailieborough Courthouse.

In the afternoon, I visited Cootehill where I had the pleasure of turning the sod on the new Holy Family School. Finally, I spoke at a Cross-Border Childcare Conference in Emyvale, Co. Monaghan.

While I had no formal meetings with business people on this visit, I did of course meet a wide variety of invited guests and members of the public at the events I attended. During the course of my visit Brexit was to the fore.

The Cross Border Childcare Conference afforded me the opportunity to engage with those attending on the subject of Brexit.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-11-20a.15&s=cross+border+2018-11-16..2018-11-23#g17.r>