



2nd October, 2024

Deputy Alan Kelly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 36794/24

To ask the Minister for Health to identify the specialist ophthalmology surgery treatment that is not provided within the State and for which patients are sent to the UK or elsewhere abroad; and the efforts being made to provide these surgeries within the State

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Ophthalmology on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The majority of ophthalmology procedures and treatments are available in Ireland.

For unusual diagnoses or some rare conditions, an expert opinion and occasionally treatment may be provided abroad.

Only a very small number of ophthalmology patients are sent abroad each year for treatments that are unavailable in Ireland - primarily those with a particular type of ocular melanoma who require proton beam therapy, of up to approximately 10 patients.

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

Yours sincerely

Anne Horgan
General Manager