

Coverage Review

Jan - May 2021

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THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 21.01.21

Reach: 105.7K

Leave academic criteria out of the process

WHEN the AQE and GL transfer assessments were introduced in 2009, there was concern that the use of "unregulated" tests would result in widespread legal cases against grammar schools using academic selection criteria. This litigation did not materialise because the schools carefully considered how the tests could be conducted fairly for all applicants.

I have been through these admissions processes as a lawyer advising grammar schools, but also as a parent of children who took both tests, so I am acutely aware that Year 8 transfer is very stressful even in ordinary circumstances. Parents need to know in advance how the admissions process will affect their children and that all will be treated fairly.

The abandonment of the AQE and GL tests was a sensible decision, but the late timing has created a situation where schools are now redrafting admissions criteria and many parents are still in the dark as to what factors will influence the placement of their children this

PLATFORM

Joe Moore

O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors
managing director



year. There is a legitimate concern that this year could see difficult litigation around school admissions and a surge in appeals during the summer.

Every school must publish its admissions criteria before February 2. They have relative autonomy in setting these criteria, which often vary widely from school to school. For popular schools, there are always disappointed children, which is why parents are encouraged to apply to several schools on the transfer form. Navigating the process can be difficult for parents.

Academic selection essentially requires every applicant to be ranked based on ability. The ranking process must be legally robust, making allowance for children

who underperformed for genuine reasons such as illness, or who couldn't sit the tests. That is why it is very difficult to see how a reliable ranking of applicants could be fairly produced in the absence of either the AQE or GL test.

Several commentators have suggested that schools could still try to use some form of academic selection this year, using transfer test practice papers, teacher information and results from standardised tests. I can't see how any of these approaches could possibly result in fair and consistent outcomes.

Practice papers do not represent a reliable means of ranking the children, as they are not conducted in the same way by schools and many children will have seen the questions before. How can a grammar school weigh up the views of teachers regarding children coming from different classes and different schools?

Standardised tests from P5-P7 have been mentioned as a potential solution. Due to Covid-19 many children have not been tested at all in P6 or P7. English and maths

assessments are not conducted uniformly in schools or with the purpose of using them to rank children for transfer. I expect that data being used in this way, without advance notice, would be subject to legal challenge.

The education minister has acknowledged that using primary school information could be "fraught with difficulty". Apart from running their own entrance tests, which would not be advisable in current circumstances, there is no obvious way of schools operating a process of academic selection which is fair to every child.

The prudent approach is to leave academic criteria out of the process for one year only. It is hard to imagine a more reasonable justification than the Covid-19 pandemic. Attempting to admit children on the basis of previously untested, ad hoc methods of selection, will be difficult to administer, legally problematic and more importantly, would create further stress and uncertainty for the children.

The focus will then turn to the

admissions criteria which will determine the places. Some will seek to prioritise children who had registered for the AQE or GL tests. It is the other criteria that will effectively determine who gets in though. Most schools use a combination of sibling, eldest child and feeder schools anyway. These criteria are not controversial. I certainly agree that using old school ties or relationships with staff members should be avoided. It is not uncommon for final places to come down to a random tie-breaker.

It is however unrealistic to expect that one standard set of admissions criteria are used by all schools, especially where many schools have already published their processes. The department's own guidance recognises that different criteria may be relevant to different schools.

While these are unprecedented times, using an untested process is very likely to result in many appeals and legal challenges. That would only make this worse for all children and the credibility of the schools.

Education

THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 21.01.21

MUV: 664,104

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2021/01/21/news/platform-leave-academic-criteria-out-of-transfer-process-2192902/>

PLATFORM: Leave academic criteria out of transfer process

Joe Moore

21 January, 2021 01:00

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Joe Moore, Managing Director O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors

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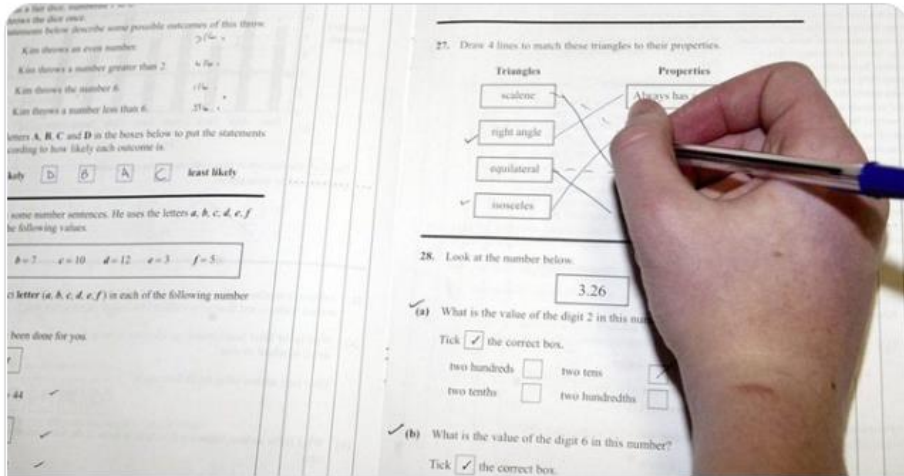
Education

The Irish News Retweeted



Simon Doyle @5imonDoyl3 · Jan 21

"I can't see how any of these approaches could possibly result in fair and consistent outcomes." Joe Moore from @OReillyStewart writing in today's @irish_news



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WHEN the AQE and GL transfer assessments were introduced in 2009, there was concern that the use of "unregulated" tests would result in ...
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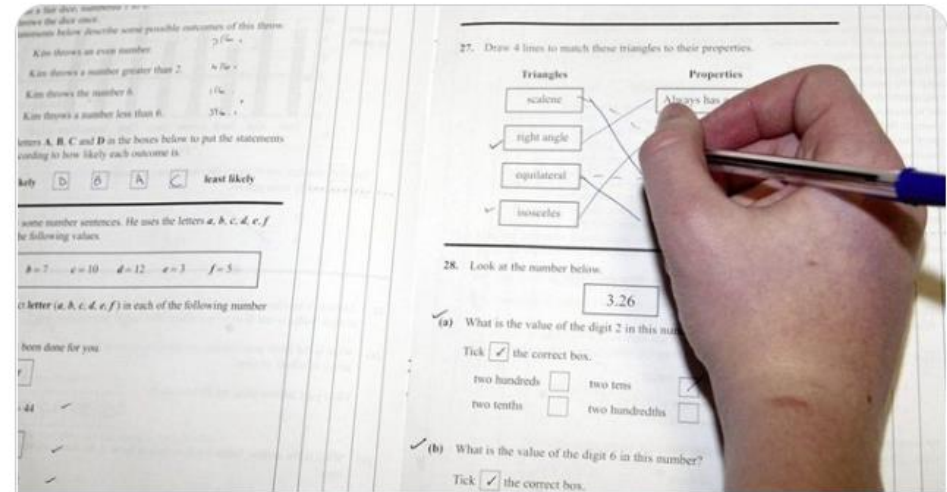


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Healthcare

Belfast Telegraph

Date: 28.01.21

Reach: 106.4K

NI health service is facing 'tsunami' of

By Lisa Smyth

THE health service in Northern Ireland is likely to face a barrage of legal cases from patients who have been denied treatment due to the pandemic, as it can be revealed that 611 cancer operations have been cancelled in just two weeks.

According to figures released by the Health & Social Care Board yesterday, 1,329 elective procedures were cancelled between January 12 and January 25 as the health service buckles under the demands of Covid-19, and more than 600 of these were red

flag and cancer operations.

Patrick Mullarkey, partner and joint head of healthcare with O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors, has warned there will be a "tsunami of medical negligence cases that could become one of the many fallouts of the pandemic".

"There have been many vivid and disturbing images throughout the Covid-19 pandemic that have relayed the pain, suffering and heartache that families have had to endure with loved ones suffering long lasting illness and so many losing their lives prematurely," he said.

Mr Mullarkey referred to the



Patrick Mullarkey

hundreds of cancelled cancer operations and said health service staff now find themselves in the "impossible position of choosing one life-saving treatment over another, prioritising patients suffering with one type of disease against another".

He described the current situation as a "ticking time bomb" which will have "long-term catastrophic consequences".

"With the possibility that the current lockdown restrictions could still be in place until Easter and easing only on a step-by-step basis, there is a potential for an influx of complaints directed

negligence cases over cancelled ops

at the health service relating to cancelled surgeries, treatment delays and growing waiting list times," he continued.

"It is not only cancer cases being affected — across all disciplines including hip surgery, hernias and back problems, waiting lists are increasing beyond the previous unacceptable levels.

"The impact of all this is that delayed diagnosis and treatments equate to worse outcomes, including avoidable deaths in urgent cases. From a legal viewpoint, the denial of appropriate and reasonable care to patients in such circumstances is in

breach of a health care provider's duty to its patients.

"The impact that we have already seen in delayed diagnosis and care will, in the very near future, see a significant rise in the numbers of patients presenting with complaints of a lack of care.

"In general, when the courts come to assess such cases it does so by the standard required of the reasonable doctor or hospital, not by reference to the available resources. It is the assessment that matters, not the circumstances of the health service.

"All of this raises important issues of the negligence liability

of public authorities which will be severely tested in the months and years ahead. And while we all long to condemn this awful disease to the annals of history, its divisive strains will be felt in boardrooms and courtrooms for some time to come."

Earlier this month, two Northern Ireland women were successful in their bid to seek leave for a judicial review into Northern Ireland's waiting list shame, which can see some patients waiting more than five years for a hospital appointment. The Department of Health has been contacted for comment.

'It is not only cancer cases being affected'

Belfast Telegraph DIGITAL

Date: 28.01.21

MUV: 1,415,304

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus/ni-health-service-is-facing-tsunami-of-negligence-cases-over-cancelled-operations-40020496.html>

NI health service is facing 'tsunami' of negligence cases over cancelled operations



Lisa Smyth

January 28 2021 07:00 AM



The health service in Northern Ireland is likely to face a barrage of legal cases from patients who have been denied treatment due to the pandemic, as it can be revealed that 611 cancer operations have been cancelled in just two weeks.

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Date: 29.01.21

<https://irishlegal.com/article/patrick-mullarkey-tsunami-of-medical-negligence-suits-looms-after-covid-19>



Patrick Mullarkey: Tsunami of medical negligence suits looms after Covid-19

Published 29 January 2021

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Patrick Mullarkey, partner and joint head of healthcare at **O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors**, warns of a tsunami of medical negligence cases that could become one the many fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

There have been many vivid and disturbing images throughout the Covid-19 pandemic that have relayed the pain, suffering and heartache that families have had to endure with loved ones suffering long lasting illness and so many losing their lives prematurely. One memory that will linger is



Patrick Mullarkey

Healthcare



Belfast Telegraph @BelTel · Jan 28

NI health service is facing 'tsunami' of negligence cases over cancelled operations

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belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/health/co...



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Irish Legal News @IrishLegalNews · Jan 30

Patrick Mullarkey: Tsunami of medical negligence suits looms in Northern Ireland after Covid-19 @OReillyStewart



NI: Patrick Mullarkey: Tsunami of medical negligence ...
Patrick Mullarkey, partner and joint head of healthcare at O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors, warns of a tsunami of ...
[@irishlegal.com](https://irishlegal.com)



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Lisa Smyth @Lisa_J_Smyth · Jan 28

Health bosses have cancelled more than 600 cancer operations in the last two weeks due to the impact of Covid-19, it can be revealed. Concerns are growing over the harm caused to patients, with a leading lawyer warning of a "tsunami" of legal cases.



NI health service is facing 'tsunami' of negligence cases over cancelled ...
The health service in Northern Ireland is likely to face a barrage of legal cases from patients who have been denied treatment due to the ...
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Belfast Telegraph

28 Jan at 10:00

The health service in Northern Ireland is likely to face a barrage of legal cases from patients who have been denied treatment due to the pandemic



[BELFASTTELEGRAPH.CO.UK](https://belfasttelegraph.co.uk)

NI health service is facing 'tsunami' of negligence cases over cancelled operations

619

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THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 02.02.21

Reach: 105.7K



Irish News Business @irishnewsbiz · Feb 2

Q&A: In the High Flyers spotlight this week is Christopher Bullock, an associate solicitor in the commercial department at @OReillyStewart



High Flyers: In at the deep end for legal eagle Christopher
In the High Flyers spotlight this week is Christopher Bullock, an associate solicitor in the commercial department at O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors.
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38 TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 2021
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IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

... this week is Christopher Bullock, an associate solicitor in the commercial department at O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors, specialising in advising the hospitality and licensing sector

In at the deep end for legal eagle Christopher

What was your first job?

It was as a leisure attendant in Dunganon leisure centre throughout school and university. It was a job I really enjoyed and luckily I never had to jump in to save anyone!

What qualifications do you have?

Law with French from QUB and a Certificate in Professional Legal Studies. Continuous personal development (CPD) is hugely important in law, as the profession and what influences it is always evolving and changing, so like many other careers there is life-long learning.

What do you attribute your success to?

It's a simple mantra, but a lot of hard work and commitment. My parents always encouraged myself and my siblings to push ourselves as much as we could in our studies to open doors to the best opportunities in life. I have sought to implement that work throughout my professional career.

How would you describe yourself to someone who'd never met you?

Pragmatic, committed and a straight talker. Hopefully clients agree they're good traits for a lawyer to have.

Who do you look up to in business?

I don't look up to any one person in particular but I have a lot of admiration for the many entrepreneurs I come across in my work who have built up very successful businesses from scratch. At times I wish I had some of their entrepreneurial spirit and courage. It's such a pity to see some of those previously successful businesses now struggling during this pandemic.

How do you get the best out of people who work for you?



I wouldn't ask anyone to do something I would not be prepared to do myself.

If you could change one thing about doing business in Northern Ireland, what would it be?

In the legal world, there is still some reliance on posting letters and documents, in my view unnecessarily. Covid-19 has forced many firms to embrace digital working more quickly than they would have otherwise, which can only be a good thing for the pace at which business can be done.

What website or app could you not do without?

For me personally and professionally, Twitter is essential for both keeping up to date with what is going on and promoting your own message.

What was the last book you read?

Done Deal by Daniel Geary, a book about the legalities behind big money football transfers and

written by a lawyer involved in them. With two young children there is not much time for reading these days.

What car do you drive?

Something pragmatic to fit the car seats and luggage - it's a Toyota Avensis. Maybe some day I'll move to something more luxurious.

Tell us something interesting about yourself

During my Erasmus year in France in 2009/2010, I founded a GAA club in Toulouse, called Tolosa Gaels. The club is still going strong and I keep in touch with some of the members.

What's your greatest passion outside work and family?

I have been heavily involved in Gaelic football for as long as I can remember. Now firmly in the twilight of my playing career, I will soon need to find something to fill the void.

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THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 02.02.21

MUV: 664,104

<https://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsb/irishnews/irishnews/irishnews//business/2021/02/02/news/in-at-the-deep-end-for-legal-eagle-christopher-2200545/content.html>

THE IRISH NEWS
11 April, 2021

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Business news Economics Personal finance Business columnists Business Insight Jobs News Workplace & Employment Awards

High Flyers: In at the deep end for legal eagle Christopher



02 February, 2021 01:00

In the High Flyers spotlight this week is Christopher Bullock, an associate solicitor in the commercial department at O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors, specialising in advising the hospitality and li[...]

Employment



Date: 08.02.21

Reach: 506,000

<https://planetradio.co.uk/cool-fm/local/news/employment-law-specialist-dont-force-your-staff-to-take-covid-vaccine/>

Employment law specialist: 'Don't force your staff to take Covid vaccine'

Solicitor urges businesses to be careful around vaccine rights



Author: Tara McLaughlin

Published 8th Feb 2021

Last updated 8th Feb 2021

Companies in Northern Ireland are being urged to encourage staff to take up a Coronavirus vaccine, rather than making it mandatory.

The UK government says the Covid jab is not compulsory and it is down to personal choice.

THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 23.02.21

Reach: 105.7K

Ruling means insurance companies must be aware of legal responsibilities

A JUDGMENT handed down by the Supreme Court which allowed the appeal brought by the Financial Conduct Authority on behalf of policyholders of business interruption insurance (BI) policies bodes well for a broad range of businesses and sectors across Northern Ireland.

A successful insurance claim, specifically relating to the industry's most adversely impacted including hospitality and leisure, professional services, retail, construction and manufacturing, may well allow them to pay rents or other essential expenses while closed, leaving them with a business to come back to once restrictions are lifted.

But in the last few weeks we have been briefed by multiple businesses across a range of sectors who have eligible cover, but are seeking legal recourse as they are still being refused by insurance companies.

When businesses had to close during the first lockdown last spring, many who had BI cover in their insurance policies attempted to claim off those policies.

This type of insurance is commonly used where a business suffers a loss due to the interruption caused by a fire, flood, or other similar natural disaster including infectious or notifiable diseases. However major insurers resisted such claims, citing that the unprecedented lockdown situation and subsequent loss of earnings was not covered by their respective policies.

The FCA, the UK consumer protection body and regulator of insurance

LEGAL MATTERS

James Turner



companies, took a claim on behalf of policy holders against insurers, with eight major insurers agreeing to take part in the test case. Twenty-one sample policy wordings were considered but the FCA estimates about 700 types of policies held by over 370 policy holders and 60 different insurers could be affected.

In the test case of the FCA v Arch and Others, the Supreme Court allowed the appeal brought by the FCA on behalf of policyholders of business interruption insurance. The FCA sought clarity on the extent of the coverage provided by BI, namely whether a policyholder could rely on this kind of policy for losses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Supreme Court ruling involved the consideration of complex legal matters but in summary now means that small and medium sized enterprises may be eligible to receive payments if they hold a relevant BI policy.

This ruling now makes it diffi-



PEACE OF MIND: A Supreme Court decision should make it easier for businesses to make insurance claims for losses caused by the coronavirus pandemic

cult for insurers to deny cover or reduce an indemnity on the basis that the loss would have resulted in any event from 'non-damage perils' caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

While the case was brought before the English courts, ultimately ending up in the Supreme Court – whose judgments apply UK-wide – we can expect to see the Financial Ombudsman service and the Northern Ireland courts follow the guidance provided by this ruling in future cases. Encouragingly, the High Court in Dublin has also recently forced an insurer to pay out on valid claims for

BI cover for pubs.

In Northern Ireland we are fortunate to have a bespoke Commercial Hub court which is dealing with these types of claims expeditiously despite the restrictions caused by Covid-19 and the lockdown.

In my experience of recent multi-party litigation conducted in the High Court in Northern Ireland, we are in a unique position to deal with these types of disputes and it is clear that the Court is "open for business".

The emerging picture is that there are certain insurance companies who are not prepared to accept

claims under any circumstances despite the UK and Ireland judgments.

It is recommended to all business owners to consult their own policy if they feel that they may have relevant cover for business interruption, and if insurers will not abide by the court judgments, insurance companies must expect legal action as the obvious next step for any affected business.

James Turner is director of commercial litigation and dispute resolution at O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors

THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 23.02.21

MUV: 664,104

<https://www.irishnews.com/paywall/tsb/irishnews/irishnews/business/2021/02/23/news/companies-in-the-lurch---insurance-companies-not-recognising-judgment-2229656/content.html>

THE IRISH NEWS

11 April, 2021

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Companies in the lurch - insurance companies not recognising judgment



James Turner

23 February, 2021 01:00

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James Turner

A JUDGMENT handed down by the Supreme Court which allowed the appeal brought by the Financial Conduct Authority on behalf of policyholders of Business Interruption Insurance (BII) policies bodes well [...]

Belfast Telegraph

Date: 31.03.21

Reach: 106.4K

Patients are suffering after end of cross-border medical deal: claim

By Andrew Madden

THOUSANDS of people in Northern Ireland are missing out on potentially lifesaving medical treatment across the border because of Brexit, a leading Belfast healthcare lawyer has said.

Under the EU's Cross-Border Directive (CBD), patients here have been able to avail of £14.1m worth of healthcare in the Republic over the last five years.

The scheme has been even more popular south of the border, with €47.2m (£40.3m) worth of healthcare provided to residents heading north for treatment over the same period.

The CBD allowed patients in Northern Ireland to obtain treatment in a European Economic Area country, paying up front but then being reimbursed by the NHS.

One key requirement is that the treatment must be available in the applicant's home country through state-funded public healthcare. Patients can also choose either a public or private



Solicitor Kevin Hegarty

healthcare provider when they are travelling for treatment.

When the UK left the EU on December 31 last year, the scheme ended.

A replacement scheme for patients in the Republic accessing private healthcare in Northern Ireland has been set up. However, no such replacement has been put in place here.

Critics of the scheme have argued that the NHS should not have to foot the bill for private healthcare in foreign countries when it does not routinely do this in the UK.

With soaring hospital waiting times in Northern Ireland, there have been calls for a replacement scheme to be set up here as soon as possible.

According to the latest figures, on December 31 last year, there were 105,159 patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals here — 16.2% more than on the same date the previous year.

Belfast-based healthcare and litigation lawyer Kevin Hegarty said more needed to be done to

ensure patients did not miss out on vital treatment.

"The issue is that, given that patients no longer have the option of going to another EU state for treatment and recouping the costs from the NHS, the already long waiting lists are likely to get worse in time. Patients who cannot afford the private care will simply have no option but to wait and wait," he added.

"In that sense, Brexit has adversely impacted an already challenging situation for many patients in Northern Ireland."

He said that as well as additional funding, more strategic cross-border co-operation was needed between the two governments, the Republic's health service and Stormont's Department of Health to get a new healthcare agreement in place.

"What has been put in place by the Irish government has not been replicated by the Executive. The longer this is left without a new scheme being introduced, the more detrimental the impact will be on the health and lives of

patients across Northern Ireland," Mr Hegarty added.

The Department of Health said transitional arrangements were in place to protect patients "in prescribed circumstances, allowing them to complete their treatment and to seek reimbursement".

"Historically, there has been significantly more use of the cross-border healthcare scheme in Northern Ireland than any other part of the UK and there is interest in the continuance of a similar scheme," it said.

"Setting up a replacement for the scheme with some or all of the EU member states, European Free Trade Association countries and Switzerland would take time to negotiate and operationalise and would bring additional costs in future years.

"Departmental officials are considering the policy options to the principles of the CBD in this post-EU exit environment and will consider any resulting consultation and legislative requirements."

Healthcare

Belfast Telegraph DIGITAL

Date: 31.03.21

MUV: 1,415,304

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/patients-suffering-after-end-of-cross-border-medical-deal-belfast-lawyer-claims-40258750.html>

Patients suffering after end of cross-border medical deal, Belfast lawyer claims



Solicitor Kevin Hegarty



Andrew Madden

March 31 2021 06:00 AM



Thousands of people in Northern Ireland are missing out on potentially lifesaving medical treatment across the border because of Brexit, a leading Belfast healthcare lawyer has said.

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THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 31.03.21

Reach: 105.7K

Call to replace EU health scheme for waiting list patients after Brexit axe

SEANÍN GRAHAM
HEALTH
CORRESPONDENT
s.graham@irishnews.com

AN EU health scheme used as a last resort by patients on waiting lists in Northern Ireland has ended due to Brexit - leading to calls for a similar initiative to be set up.

Last year *The Irish News* revealed that the number of people make applications to the programme - which allows patients to pay upfront for surgery in other European countries and then be reimbursed by the north's health service - had rocketed.

Desperate pensioners facing five-year delays for hip replacements were among those who availed of the scheme, with some getting loans of up to £10,000 to fly to Lithuania and other parts of eastern Europe for cut-price surgery.

The five-year scheme ended on December 31 last year when the UK exited the EU.

Thousands of patients in the north had also travelled to the Republic for opera-

tions and were reimbursed for treatment, with monies paid back amounting to more than £14 million.

However, the scheme remains in place for those south of the border, who can continue to travel to Northern Ireland this year. A total of €47.2m has been paid out in the Republic for those using the initiative.



Belfast based solicitor Kevin Hegarty, left, said more needs to be done to ensure northern patients do not miss out on vital treatment at a time of record high waiting lists.

"Brexit has adversely impacted an already challenging situation for many patients," Mr Hegarty of O'Reilly Stewart said.

"As well as additional funding we need more strategic cross border co-operation between the two governments, the HSE and Department of Health to get a new healthcare agreement in place. What has been put in place by the Irish government has not been replicated by the NI Executive.

"Moreover, the extent of the waiting lists problem in Northern Ireland is likely to force those who can afford private care to pay for it themselves, while many are not in a financial position to do so, ultimately widening social inequalities."

In a statement, the Department of Health noted "significantly more use" of the scheme in the north than any other part of the UK.

The department confirmed there is "interest" in setting up a similar initiative but warned of bureaucracy and costs.

"Setting up a replacement for the Cross-Border Healthcare Scheme with some or all of the EU Member States, EFTA countries and Switzerland would take time to negotiate and operationalise and would bring additional costs in future years.

"Departmental officials are considering the policy options to the principles of the Cross-Border Directive in this post EU Exit environment and consider any resulting consultation and legislative requirements."

Healthcare

THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 31.03.21

MUV: 664,104

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2021/03/31/news/call-to-replace-eu-health-scheme-for-northern-ireland-waiting-list-patients-following-its-brexit-axe-2273066/>

Call to replace EU health scheme for Northern Ireland waiting list patients following its Brexit axe



A scheme to allow waiting list patients in Northern Ireland avail of an EU healthcare scheme has ended due to Brexit

Seanin Graham

31 March, 2021 01:00



AN EU health scheme used as a last resort by patients on waiting lists in Northern Ireland has ended due to Brexit - leading to calls for a similar initiative to be set up.

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Healthcare

News Letter

Belfast

Date: 01.04.21

Reach: 50.6K

LOCAL PATIENTS WILL MISS OUT UNTIL REPLACEMENT FOR PRE-BREXIT PROGRAMME PUT IN PLACE

Loss of cross-border treatment scheme 'will hit NI waiting lists'

By NIALL DEENEY
niall.deeneey@newsletter.co.uk
@News_Letter

A post-Brexit replacement for a cross-border health scheme that allowed Northern Ireland patients to seek treatment in the Republic will take "time to negotiate", the Stormont health department has said.

That is despite a similar scheme allowing patients from the south to access private healthcare here having already been set up by authorities in the Republic of Ireland.

The EU's Cross-Border Directive (CBD) scheme on healthcare has in the past been used by thousands of people to get treatment over the border amid long waiting lists here, with Northern Ireland residents receiving £14.1m worth of healthcare over the last five years.

But the EU directive 2011/24, which allowed patients from Northern Ireland to pay up front for treatment elsewhere and then claim reimbursement, came to an end at the turn of the new year following the UK's departure from the EU.

Belfast-based healthcare



There is no replacement yet for a cross-border healthcare scheme that allowed people from Northern Ireland to secure treatment in the Republic of Ireland

lawyer Kevin Hegarty, from O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors, said more needs to be done on this side of the border to replicate a replacement scheme set up in the Republic of Ireland.

"Our waiting list figures are already much worse than

in other parts of the UK and the situation has only been impacted further due to the pandemic," he said.

"The issue is that, given that patients no longer have the option of going to another EU state for treatment and

recouping the costs from the NHS, then the already long waiting lists are likely to get worse in time, and patients who cannot afford the private care will simply have no option but to wait and wait.

"In that sense, Brexit has

adversely impacted an already challenging situation for many patients in Northern Ireland.

"As well as additional funding we need more strategic cross-border co-operation between the two governments,

the HSE and Department of Health to get a new healthcare agreement in place. What has been put in place by the Irish government has not been replicated by the NI Executive.

"The longer this is left without a new scheme being introduced the more detrimental the impact will be on the health and lives of patients across Northern Ireland."

A spokesperson for the Stormont health department said officials are "considering the policy options" but stressed that setting up a replacement could take time and would incur costs.

"Transitional arrangements are in place to protect patients in prescribed circumstances allowing them to complete their treatment and seek reimbursement," the spokesperson added.

"Historically there has been significantly more use of the Cross-Border Healthcare Scheme in Northern Ireland than any other part of the UK and there is interest in the continuance of a similar scheme. Setting up a replacement for the scheme with some or all of the EU member states, EFTA countries and Switzerland would take time to negotiate and operationalise and would bring additional costs."

Healthcare

A post-Brexit replacement for a cross-border health scheme that allowed Northern Ireland patients to seek treatment in the Republic will take “time to negotiate”, the Stormont health department has said.

News Letter

Belfast

Date: 01.04.21

MUV: 163,296

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/health/replacement-for-cross-border-healthcare-scheme-scuppered-by-brexit-will-take-time-to-negotiate-say-stormont-health-department-3185234>

By Niall Deeney

Wednesday, 31st March 2021, 2:56 pm



There is no replacement yet for a cross-border healthcare scheme that allowed people from Northern Ireland to secure treatment in the Republic of Ireland

That is despite a similar scheme allowing patients from the south to access private healthcare here having already been set up by authorities in the Republic of Ireland.

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Licensing

Belfast Telegraph DIGITAL

Date: 29.04.21

MUV: 1,415,304

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/pubs-and-bars-warned-not-to-take-unnecessary-risks-when-reopening-this-week-40365788.html>

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Pubs and bars warned not to take 'unnecessary' risks when reopening this week

Licensed premises will be permitted to serve alcohol outside.



Solicitor Christopher Bullock has urged pubs and bars not take risks with their licences in the short term. Picture supplied by Aiken.

By Cate McCurry, PA

April 28 2021 11:34 AM



Outdoor pubs and restaurants have been warned not to take "unmitigated risks" when they re-open this week as it could hinder the renewal of their licences.

Licensed and unlicensed premises, including pubs and restaurants, are reopening their doors to the public this Friday in an outdoor capacity only.

Licensed premises will be permitted to serve alcohol outside only in accordance with the Executive's current guidelines.

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- 4 David Trimble under investigation

Licensing

THE IRISH NEWS

Date: 29.04.21

MUV: 664,104

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2021/04/28/news/pubs-and-bars-warned-not-to-take-unnecessary-risks-when-reopening-this-week-2303727/>

THE IRISH NEWS

29 April, 2021

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Pubs and bars warned not to take 'unnecessary' risks when reopening this week



Licensed and unlicensed premises, including pubs and restaurants, are reopening their doors to the public this Friday in an outdoor capacity only

Cate McCurry, PA

28 April, 2021 11:22

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Outdoor pubs and restaurants have been warned not to take "unmitigated risks" when they re-open this week as it could hinder the renewal of their licences.

Licensed and unlicensed premises, including pubs and restaurants, are reopening their doors to the public this Friday in an outdoor capacity only.

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News Letter

Belfast

Date: 29.04.21

MUV: 163,296

<https://www.newsletter.co.uk/business/pints-on-friday-ni-lockdown-easing-chaos-as-beer-gardens-and-restaurants-struggle-with-new-rules-before-friday-opening-3217147>

Business

Pints on Friday? NI lockdown easing 'chaos' as beer gardens and restaurants struggle with new rules before Friday opening

Pubs and restaurants looking forward to opening outdoor beer gardens and dining spaces on Friday are being faced with a state of "chaos" around the rules, an industry body has warned.

By Niall Deeney

Wednesday, 28th April 2021, 12:47 pm
Updated: 21 hours ago



A member of staff serves drinks in the beer garden at the Beer Hall, Glasgow, where outdoor areas have already reopened to the public.

The next phase for easing lockdown restrictions kicks in on April 30, with both licensed and unlicensed premises allowed to welcome customers into outdoor spaces.

child sexual abuse



Date: 29.04.21

<https://www.irishlegal.com/article/outdoor-pubs-which-flout-guidelines-could-face-licensing-problems-next-year>



Outdoor pubs which flout guidelines could face licensing problems next year

Published 28 April 2021



Outdoor pubs and restaurants which fail to take public health guidelines seriously following the reopening of the hospitality sector this Friday could lose their licences next year, a Belfast lawyer has warned.

Christopher Bullock, an associate at **O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors**, has highlighted that next year is a crucial one for hospitality venues as over 1,800 liquor licences across Northern Ireland will go up for renewal.



Christopher Bullock

Licensing

**ULSTER
BUSINESS**

Date: 29.04.21



Ulster Business @UlsterBusiness · 22h

Outdoor pubs and restaurants are being encouraged not to take unmitigated risks when premises re-open this Friday as it could hinder the renewal of their licences, according to [@OReillyStewart](#) Christopher Bullock



BelfastLive

Date: 29.04.21

MUV: 301,344

<https://www.belfastlive.co.uk/news/belfast-news/northern-ireland-pubs-warned-against-20485621>

Northern Ireland pubs warned against Covid risks over fears drinks licence could be at risk

Pubs and restaurants have criticised lack of clarity on rules



Outdoor drinking must be done under strict guidance from the Executive

Outdoor **pubs and restaurants** in Northern Ireland are being warned not to take 'unmitigated risks' ahead of re-opening on Friday as it could put their drinks licence in jeopardy.

A Belfast licensing lawyer made the plea amid ongoing confusion over regulations that must be met so businesses can re-open while mitigating against the spread of **Covid**.

Under latest restriction's hospitality venues both licensed and unlicensed, will be allowed to resume outdoor dining from April 30 and licensed premises will be allowed to serve alcohol outside if they stick to guidelines.

But, cautioning that owners should be careful, Christopher Bullock from O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors says that next year is a key date for hospitality outlets as over 1,800 liquor licences across Northern Ireland are up for renewal - an event which only happens every five years.

The call comes as Council representatives and the **PSNI** have been liaising with publicans in Belfast, to ensure they are abiding by the stringent guidelines set out by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Mr Bullock said: "Covid-19 may well have permanently changed how we go to the pub or restaurant and while operators are keen to get back up and running this weekend, they must not adversely impact the long-term viability of their licence by taking unnecessary risks when re-opening.

Licensing



Date: 29.04.21

Bars are warned not to take risks over reopening

BY MAURICE FITZMAURICE

OUTDOOR pubs and restaurants are being warned not to take "unmitigated risks" ahead of reopening tomorrow as it could put their drinks licence in jeopardy.

A Belfast lawyer made the plea amid confusion over regulations that must be met.

Christopher Bullock, from O'Reilly Stewart Solicitors, said next year is a key date for hospitality outlets as more than 1,800 liquor licences across are up for renewal - something which only happens every five years.

He added: "Under the current restrictions only venues with adequate and suitable outdoor space are permitted to reopen.

"While outlets will want to maximise this opportunity after months without trading, selling alcohol in unlicensed beer gardens or outdoor areas, or carrying out alterations to the premises without court consent, could jeopardise their licence in the long-term.

"I would urge all statutory authorities to work closely with and support the trade to ensure they can open in line with regulations."

Licensing

Date: 29.04.21

