

See attached list

Our Ref:

Date: 16 January 2015

Dear Consultee,

### **Health & Social Care Board's Patient Travel Policy**

I would like to invite you to give your views and feedback on the HSCB's Patient Travel Policy. This policy ensures patients and their carers attending health and social care appointments and treatment outside Northern Ireland receive assistance for travel arrangements and receive reimbursement for the reasonable costs of their journey.

We have prepared a single comprehensive document which summarises the assistance the Board makes available to patients and carers when patients are travelling outside Northern Ireland for assessment and/or treatment. The purpose of this engagement exercise is to seek your views on our patient travel policy and on the way in which the detail of this policy is made available to the public.

The HSCB will take account of the comments received in this consultation with regard to the policy itself. Comments will also be used to inform a guidance leaflet and other documentation for patients travelling for treatment outside Northern Ireland.

The attached summary document describes key points from the detailed policy guidance which clearly outlines the services that the HSCB patient travel team will provide and the process for submitting claims as well as the level of financial assistance provided by the HSCB.

The documentation and online response form can be accessed on the HSCB website [www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult) . The Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights Screening template is also available online along with the Policy.



**If you would like to comment please do so by 5.00pm on Friday, 27 February 2015. All responses must be received by this date.**

### **How can I respond?**

The ways in which you can respond include:

- E mail: [patienttravelconsultation@hscni.net](mailto:patienttravelconsultation@hscni.net)
- Written: HSCB Patient Travel Team Consultation

Commissioning Directorate  
Health and Social Care Board  
12-22 Linenhall Street  
Belfast BT2 8BS

The response forms available at [www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult](http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/consult) can be sent via e mail or post.

If you require a printed copy of the consultation documentation or in an alternative format please contact:

Telephone: 02895363152  
Email: [helen.johnston@hscni.net](mailto:helen.johnston@hscni.net)

### **What happens after the exercise?**

Following the end of the stakeholder engagement period, the Board will formalise and implement the policy and will publish a summary of responses on the HSCB website.

I look forward to your views on this important issue.

Yours faithfully

**Peter McLaughlin**  
**Assistant Director of Commissioning**