

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Hon. Member for Douglas South, Mrs Maltby, to ask The Minister for Health and Social Care:

What consideration has been given by her Department to how to reduce the financial impact of a tourist levy incurred by patients and their escorts requiring treatment in the UK and subsequently during any period of authorised essential extended stay; and whether an exemption from such a levy could be considered as part of any reciprocal health agreement negotiations.

Question W-202401-1647 published on 20 06 2025; Answer published on 03 07 2025.

The Minister for Health and Social Care (Ms Christian):

The Department is aware of the introduction of the City Visitor Charge (CVC), which came into effect in June 2025 as part of Liverpool's Accommodation Business Improvement District (ABID) initiative. This £2 per night supplement applies to overnight stays in approximately 83 hotels and serviced accommodation providers located within the Liverpool City Accommodation BID area, which covers central Liverpool. Including Value Added Tax (VAT), visitors may incur a total nightly surcharge of up to £2.40.

While acknowledging this supplement could create additional costs for Isle of Man residents travelling off-Island for essential medical treatment, currently there is no clear evidence that patients are being disproportionately impacted – or that barriers to accessing essential NHS services have occurred.

Based on the information currently held by the Department, the table below outlines the specialist North West tertiary centres to which Manx Care refers patients for off-Island treatment, along with an indication of whether each centre falls within the area covered by the Liverpool City Visitor Charge.

Tertiary Centre	Location	Within Liverpool City Visitor Charge Zone?
Royal Liverpool University Hospital	Liverpool City Centre	Yes
Clatterbridge Cancer Centre (Liverpool site)	Liverpool City Centre	Yes
Liverpool Women's Hospital	Liverpool City Centre	Yes
Alder Hey Children's Hospital	Liverpool (West Derby)	No
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital	Liverpool (Broadgreen)	No
The Walton Centre (Neurosciences)	Liverpool (Fazakerley)	No
Aintree University Hospital	Liverpool (Fazakerley)	No

Whiston Hospital	Rainhill, Prescot	No
Arrowe Park Hospital	Birkenhead, Wirral	No
Southport Hospital	Southport (Merseyside)	No
The Christie Hospital	Manchester (Wilmslow Rd)	No
Manchester Royal Infirmary	Manchester (Oxford Rd)	No
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital	Manchester (Oxford Rd)	No
Wythenshawe Hospital	Manchester (Wythenshawe)	No
Wrightington Hospital	Wigan (Greater Manchester)	No
Salford Royal Hospital	Salford (Greater Manchester)	No

The Reciprocal Healthcare Arrangement (RHA) between the Isle of Man and the UK Government primarily covers necessary and emergency treatment that arises during a visit, typically within six months of arrival. It does not routinely address non-medical matters relating to accommodation, travel, or charging supplements such as the initiative implemented within the BID area. For clarity, the scheme is introduced by Liverpool's business community and City Council rather than a tax imposed by the UK Government.

For patients who are travelling via Patient Transfers to receive treatment in Tertiary Care services in the UK – reimbursement of accommodation costs can be claimed through Patient Transfers. Currently these rates are:

- Within London: up to £74 per person per night;
- The remainder of the UK: up to £50 per person per night;
- Mileage claims within the UK where applicable are reimbursed at a rate of 0.39p per mile.

The Department recommends that patients requiring extended stays off-Island for continued treatment or patients seeking general advice and support, should contact Manx Care's Patient Transfer Office (01624 642673 or email: patient.transfers@gov.im)

As part of the objectives described in the Department Plan 2025/26 (available on the Register of Business ahead of consideration at the July 2025 sitting of Tynwald), the Department is undertaking a policy review of Patient Transfer services which includes matters relating to accommodation reimbursement. The target date to implement the policy is July 2026.

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