



*(Via Email)*

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Minister Heather Humphreys TD,  
Minister for Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands  
Department of Social Protection,  
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada,  
Store Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 WY03.

**RE: Proposals regarding access to Free Travel for people with epilepsy**

Dear Minister,

I trust this finds you well.

I am contacting you again to seek an update in relation to Epilepsy Ireland's proposals to improve access to the Free Travel scheme for people with epilepsy.

As you are aware Minister, our proposals have been with your Department for some time – with our first formal submission being made in advance of the budget for 2022. You will also be aware that the Oireachtas Committee for Social Protection recently included our proposals as one of their priority recommendations for the forthcoming budget.

Since the end of last year, we have been assured that a final report from your Department is imminent – both directly from officials in your Department and via responses you have given via Parliamentary Questions. Several specific deadlines for this report to be presented to you have come and gone.

While we are very cognisant of the considerable time needed for research and deliberation on such matters, it is becoming increasingly frustrating for the people who are being impacted by this issue daily to have not seen any substantive progress for many months now.

In May 2022, Epilepsy Ireland provided information on a number of relevant matters as requested by your Department. Since then, all correspondence has referred to an upcoming report being prepared for your attention.

With another budget fast approaching, we can only hope that the delay in communicating any further information regarding our proposals is because they will form part of the forthcoming budget.

In the coming weeks, the eyes of the International Epilepsy community will be fixed firmly on Ireland, with our hosting of the 35<sup>th</sup> International Epilepsy Congress from September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. This major event represents an incredible opportunity for the State to finally acknowledge the unique accessibility issues faced by people with epilepsy due to their condition, and to finally address this longstanding issue.

As stated at our meeting in January 2022, and in further correspondence since then, we believe that our proposals are the most straightforward and logical mechanism to address this issue. However, if you and your Department feel that there is a more viable solution to the transport challenges faced by people with epilepsy, we are more than willing to engage further.

[www.epilepsy.ie](http://www.epilepsy.ie)

014557500 [info@epilepsy.ie](mailto:info@epilepsy.ie)

*Working to achieve a society where no person's life is limited by epilepsy.*



We would be grateful at this stage for a substantive update on the matter and the status of the long-awaited report, at your earliest convenience.

As always, we would be more than willing to meet with you and your Department to discuss further.

Thank you for your attention to this and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Murphy".

Peter Murphy,  
CEO, Epilepsy Ireland.