

Public Consultation Survey

Regarding the Cross Solent Travel Scheme currently funded by the IW Council

The Isle of Wight Council understand that the costs (time and money) incurred by people who need to travel to the mainland for hospital care is a very real concern for local people. This consultation seeks to obtain views from Island residents about the Isle of Wight Council's current funding of cross Solent travel for people attending mainland hospital appointments for the purposes of chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis.

Where people have a low income or are in receipt of specific qualifying benefits or allowances, the NHS has a statutory duty to reimburse their travel costs under the Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS). The discretionary council funded scheme goes beyond this and provides non-means tested support to people who would not qualify for support from the HTCS. The Isle of Wight Council's decision to provide this funding makes us nationally unique as no other local authority chooses to fund transport for NHS patients and there is no duty or responsibility placed on local authorities to do so.

Adult Social Care currently provides £60,000 per year to fund the cross Solent travel costs incurred by patients attending a mainland hospital for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis. This was a decision taken by Councillors several years ago and it is entirely discretionary.

The Council is considering whether or not it should continue to fund this cross Solent travel for two reasons:

First, in such challenging financial times, the council must take very difficult decisions in how it can best meet its duties and responsibilities despite the significant reduction in funding from Government.

Second, the council is also concerned about the inequitable nature of this funding. It only supports those local residents who are travelling for a restricted range of treatments (chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis), meaning that those people who have to undergo cross Solent travel to attend a mainland hospital for an equally serious illness or life-saving treatment receive no financial support from the Council.

Accordingly, the funding of this scheme was identified as a potential budget saving for 2018/19.

The council, however, recognises the importance of hearing and considering the views of Island residents to inform any decisions about the future funding of this scheme. That is why it has embarked upon this public consultation and is using Healthwatch Isle of Wight as an independent partner to administer the consultation and analyse the results.

We would be very grateful if you would complete this short questionnaire. We value your experience, knowledge and comments as someone who either has used the current scheme or as a member of the wider population who may possibly need to travel to the mainland for treatment in the future.

This consultation will run online until the 23 December 2018. The deadline to return paper copies to Healthwatch Isle of Wight is 24 December 2018.

This is an anonymous questionnaire and any comments will be reported in a way which protects the identity of the respondent.

✉ Please return your completed questionnaire by freepost to:
Freepost RTGR-BKRU-KUEL
Healthwatch Isle of Wight,
The Riverside Centre,
The Quay,
Newport, IW, PO30 2QR

💻 If you would prefer to complete the questionnaire online please go to
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K33GP9X

Please also refer to the supporting information and frequently asked questions document which should be provided with this survey

QUESTIONS

1. Have you at any time in the past 12 years had to travel to the mainland to attend a medical appointment?

☐ Yes (please answer next question) ☐ No (please go to question 8)

2. Was your mainland medical appointment for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis?

☐ Chemotherapy ☐ Radiotherapy

☐ Renal dialysis ☐ No (if no please go to question 8)

3. Did your level of income and benefits entitle you to claim your travel costs under the means tested statutory Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS)?

- ***For more information about the income and benefit requirements to qualify for this scheme refer to Frequently Asked Question 6***

☐ Yes (please go to question 9)

☐ No (please go to question 4)

☐ I don't know (please go to question 4)

The next 6 questions relate to the discretionary travel scheme operated by the IW NHS Trust but funded by the IW Council which is currently being reviewed.

4. Did you use the discretionary non-means tested Cross Solent Travel Scheme to reclaim your travel expenses?

- ☐ Yes (if yes please go to question 5)
- ☐ No, I funded my own transport costs (please go to question 8)

5. How did you find out about the Cross Solent Travel Scheme?

Please tick all the boxes that apply:

- ☐ Hospital (IW) ☐ Hospital (Mainland) ☐ GP ☐ Leaflet
- ☐ Word of mouth ☐ Voluntary sector organisation ☐ Hospice
- ☐ Other please specify below:

6. How many times have you used the discretionary Cross Solent Travel Scheme to reclaim your travel costs?

- ☐ Once ☐ 2-4 trips ☐ 5-10 trips ☐ more than 10 trips

We appreciate that you may have just started your treatment or may have had a long course of treatment so please use the space below to make any further comments:

7. Were you accompanied by a carer or a companion who was also funded under the discretionary Cross Solent Travel Scheme?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Sometimes

8. If you should need to travel to the mainland for chemotherapy, radiotherapy or renal dialysis in the future and this scheme was not available, how would you fund your travel costs?

- ☐ Income ☐ Savings ☐ Family ☐ Loan
- ☐ Charity ☐ I would not be able to fund my travel
- ☐ I would qualify for support from the means tested Healthcare Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Please use the space below to make any further comments:

9. Please use the space below to share your thoughts about whether or how the Isle of Wight Council should continue to fund this scheme in the future:

The next 2 questions relate to the discount schemes operated by the Isle of Wight ferry companies

10. Are you aware that Red Funnel, Wightlink and Hovertravel all offer specific discounts for people to attend mainland medical appointments?

- ***For more information refer to Frequently Asked Question 7***

☐ Yes ☐ No (if no please go to question 12)

11. Have you used the discounts offered by the Islands ferry operators to attend mainland medical appointments?

☐ Yes ☐ No

The next 3 questions are about you

12. What is your age group?

☐ under 18 ☐ 18-29 ☐ 30-49 ☐ 50-64 ☐ 65-79 ☐ 80 or over

13. What is your gender?

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other

14. What is your postcode?

	Please tick one:
P030 (Newport)	
P031 (Cowes)	
P032 (East Cowes)	
P033 (Ryde)	
P034 (Seaview)	
P035 (Bembridge)	
P036 (Sandown)	
P037 (Shanklin)	
P038 (Ventnor)	
P039 (Totland Bay)	
P040 (Freshwater)	
P041 (Yarmouth)	

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire, your input is greatly appreciated.



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