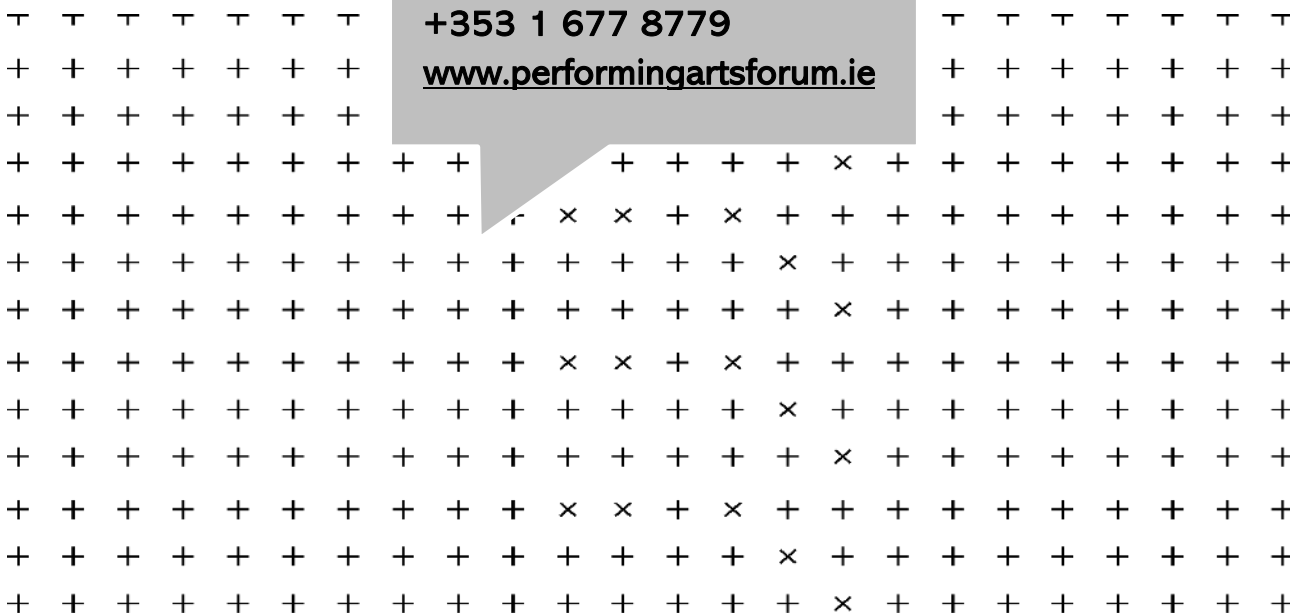


PERFORMING ARTS FORUM

TREATMENT BENEFIT SCHEME // FACTSHEET

info@performingartsforum.ie
+353 1 677 8779
www.performingartsforum.ie



Treatment Benefit Scheme Factsheet

The Treatment Benefit Scheme is run by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP). The Treatment Benefit Scheme is available to insured workers, the self-employed and retired people who have the required number of [PRSI contributions](#).

Under the Treatment Benefit Scheme, you may qualify for:

- Dental benefit
- Optical benefit
- Hearing aids

Dental Benefit

Under this scheme, the Department pays the full cost of an oral examination once a calendar year. Since 28 October 2017, a payment of €42 towards either a scale and polish or - if clinically necessary - periodontal treatment, is also available once a calendar year. If the cost of either cleaning or periodontal treatment is more than €42, you must pay the balance - capped at €15 for a scale and polish. There is no cap on the balance charged for periodontal treatment.

Treatment is provided by private dentists who are on the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection's panel. [Lists of dentists on the panel are available on welfare.ie](#). Most dentists are on the panel so you should not have any difficulty finding one. The dentist will be able to check your eligibility and make a claim for you. The claim form will require details such as your [Personal Public Service Number \(PPS number\)](#), date of birth and signature. If you are a dependent spouse or civil partner, you should give the PPS number of the insured person, who will also be required to sign the claim form.

Optical Benefit

The Treatment Benefit Scheme entitles you to a free eyesight test, once every second calendar year. However, sight tests for VDUs, [driving licences](#), etc., are not covered under the scheme. Since 28 October 2017, you can get a payment, once every second calendar year, towards either one pair each of reading and distance spectacles, one pair of bifocal or varifocals or one pair of contact lenses (including disposables). Cost will vary depending on the frames you choose. Basic frames are free. If you choose more expensive frames, the Department will pay €42 towards the overall cost of the spectacles and you pay the balance. The examination is provided by [dispensing opticians/optometrists/ophthalmologists](#) who have a contract with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

If you need contact lenses on medical grounds, the Department will pay half the cost up to a maximum of €500 provided you have a doctor's recommendation. This applies to a small number of eye conditions that make wearing glasses impossible. Disposable lenses are not

covered under the scheme. Contact lenses are not available on purely optical or cosmetic grounds.

Hearing Aids

Hearing aids may be provided by suppliers who have a contract with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. The Department pays half the cost of a hearing aid subject to a fixed maximum of €500 for each hearing aid once every fourth calendar year. It also pays half the cost of repairs to aids, up to a maximum of €100, once every fourth calendar year.

Tax relief

You may get tax relief on certain non-routine dental treatments.

Treatment Benefit Scheme and EU Regulations

If you were previously insurably employed in a country covered by EU Regulations and you do not qualify on your Irish PRSI record, your social insurance record in the other EU country may be used to help you qualify for Treatment Benefit. You must have paid at least one reckonable PRSI contribution (Classes A, E, H, P and S) since your return to Ireland.

How to apply

Claims are made through your provider (dentist, dispensing optician/optometrist/ophthalmologist or audiologist), who can check your entitlement in advance of treatment and claim payment afterwards.

Your provider will require some information to identify you, such as your date of birth and PPS number. Prior to treatment, you will need to sign a Consent Form agreeing to your provider having this information and giving your consent to have this information supplied to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, to enable payment of your claim.

If you are claiming as a dependant under the PRSI record of your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant, both you and your spouse or partner will need to sign the Consent Form.

For treatment received in other EU member states, you contact the Treatment Benefit Section at the address below to confirm your eligibility. If eligible, you send your receipts to the Treatment Benefit Section along with a letter containing your contact information and details of your bank account (account name, number and sort code) into which payment will be made.

Where to apply

Treatment Benefit Section
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
St. Oliver Plunkett Road

Letterkenny
Donegal
Ireland

Tel: (074) 916 4480 (If calling from outside the Republic of Ireland +353 74 916 4480)

Locall: 1890 400 400 (Note: the rates charged for using 1890 (Lo-call) numbers may vary)

Homepage: <http://www.welfare.ie>

You can email the Treatment Benefit section using the secure enquiry form.