

# Policy 15 – Engaging Care Outside Scotland & Northern Ireland

**Owner: Corporate Affairs Team**

**Subject: Engaging Care Abroad outside Scotland & Northern Ireland (NI)**

**Version: 2.0**

**Last Amended: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015**

**Date Reviewed: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016**

## 1.0 Background

ILFS are not required to collect National Insurance numbers of Personal Assistants. The lack of provision of a UK National Insurance number is not a reason for refusing an offer of financial assistance by ILFS.

This means that users can choose to engage a personal assistant or agency during temporary stays outside Scotland and NI.

## 2.0 Policy

There is no restriction upon a user engaging care providers either directly or through an agency whilst in another part of the UK or overseas, provided that all ILF eligibility criteria are met and that the care costs can be met out of the existing ILF award. ILF funding can be used for care engaged outside Scotland, provided that the ILF user can supply evidence of the care that has been provided if requested to do so.

ILFS does not collect the National Insurance numbers of PAs and considers that the name and contact details of any agency engaged is sufficient information.

ILFS does not distinguish between European and non-European countries in this arrangement.

Care agencies in England, Wales, and NI are covered by different regulatory authorities; and each country overseas will have different arrangements for overseeing care provision. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that their

chosen agency is registered appropriately.

If the user wishes to employ care directly, they should be advised to have employer liability insurance the cost of which ILFS would consider paying exceptionally on the same basis as for UK based carers. It would be advisable to take local legal advice although the cost of this must be met by the user.

### **3.0 Procedure**

Where an ILF user wishes to engage a PA or Agency care during a temporary stay outside Scotland, the user must:

- Continue to be in receipt of higher rate care component of DLA, or equivalent.
- Be in receipt of at least the threshold sum per week of qualifying support and services from the Local Authority (Scotland) or Health and Social Care Trust (NI), if a group 2 user.
- Continue to meet the financial eligibility criteria and satisfy the residence and presence tests.
- The ILF user should be informed that they must be able to provide details of the care provider and evidence of the care that has been provided should this information be requested.

### **4.0 Source**

### **5.0 Cross References**

Increase request policy

### **6.0 History Date Reviewed**

1<sup>st</sup> June 2016